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PROTESTS IN LOK SABHA

Govt. introduces Bill to replace MGNREGA

NEWS » PAGE 13

HISTORIC LOW

Rupee breaches 91-mark against dollar

BUSINESS » PAGE 15

VEHICLES CATCH FIRE

13 dead in pile-up on Yamuna Expressway

NEWS » PAGE 14

DATA POINT

Organ donations after death

Data shows more women are willing to donate organs

OPINION » PAGE 11

IPL AUCTION

Green becomes the costliest overseas buy

SPORT » PAGE 18

NEARBY

'Will continue as CM till party decides'

BELAGAVI
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on the floor of the Assembly that he will continue as Chief Minister until the high command makes a decision. He emphasised that Congress regime will continue for the full five-year term. » PAGE 8

Assembly adopts Bill to add members to GBA

BELAGAVI
The Assembly adopted the Greater Bengaluru Governance (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, to include elected representatives as members of the GBA. » PAGE 4

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Sydney beach shooter was Indian citizen, say officials

Sajid Akram, who was a resident of Hyderabad, last came to India in 2022 on a two-week visit, according to govt. officials; preliminary investigation does not establish any local links, they say

Vijaita Singh
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Sajid Akram, one of the two Bondi Beach attackers who killed at least 16 people at a Jewish event in Australia on Sunday, was an Indian citizen from Hyderabad, government officials who ran a background check on the deceased told *The Hindu*. He last came to India in 2022 for a two-week visit.

Akram, 50, was a resident of Tolichowki in Hyderabad, but after migrating to Australia on a student visa in 1998, he visited India only on six occasions, the Telangana police said in a statement on Tuesday.

"His father died in 2017, he did not come even to attend his last rites," a top government official said.

Background check

Sajid Akram, one of the two Bondi Beach attackers who killed at least 16 people in Australia on Sunday, is an Indian citizen

- The 50-year-old was a resident of Tolichowki in Hyderabad and migrated to Australia on a student visa in 1998

- His relatives in India say that he had only limited contact with his family in Hyderabad
- Preliminary investigation do not establish any local links

Painful moment: Relatives of one of the victims of the shooting during a vigil in Sydney. REUTERS

Akram's relatives in India say that he has had limited contact with his family in Hyderabad over the past 27 years, the police said. He visited India primarily for family-related reasons, such as property matters and visits to his elderly parents.

"The family members have expressed no knowledge of his radical mindset or activities, nor of the circumstances that led to his radicalisation. The factors that led to the radicalisation of Sajid Akram and his son, Naveed, appear to have no connection with India or any local influence in Telangana," the Telangana Police said, adding that they do not have any adverse record against Akram during his stay in India.

Noting reports that indicated the father-son duo were inspired by IS ideology, the police said that "further investigation in this regard is being carried out by Australian authorities."

Asked whether the Akrams had any local links in India, an official said: "Preliminary investigation do not establish any local links so far. We do not have access to his activities in Australia."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
RELATED REPORT ON
» PAGE 16

SIR outcome

The Election Commission has completed the special intensive revision and prepared draft electoral rolls for 5 States & U.T.s. Data show about 90% voter retention following the exercise

State/UT	Draft list (%)	Deceased (%)	Shifted/ Absent (%)	Enrolled at multiple places (%)
Rajasthan	92.34	-	5.43	0.63
Goa	91.56	2.16	6.12	0.17
Lakshadweep	97.53	1.22	0.43	0.82
West Bengal	92.4	3.15	4.26	0.18
Puducherry (U.T.)	89.87	2.04	7.89	0.2

- Unlike Bihar's SIR, no documents were required at this stage; all voters who submitted enumeration forms were included in the draft list
- Voters left out can seek inclusion during the claims and objections period (Dec. 16 to Jan. 15), before final rolls are published on February 14
- **The EC announced SIR 2.0 across 12 States and Union Territories, but postponements were made due to intense work pressure of Booth Level Officers**

Helping hand: Booth-level officers assist a voter in filling out the enumeration form for the special intensive revision, in Rajasthan on November 27. PTI

» REPORT ON PAGE 12

Trial in Renukaswamy murder case to begin today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The trial in the Renukaswamy murder case will finally commence on Wednesday, according to the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) in the case, P. Prasanna Kumar.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kumar said, "Summons have been issued to Renukaswamy's parents, who are required to appear as the trial begins."

A Bengaluru court on November 3 framed charges against Darshan Thoogudeepa, his friend Pavithra Gowda and 15 others, in the 2024 murder case.

Renukaswamy (33), who worked at a medical store in Chitradurga, was allegedly abducted by associates of actor Darshan for sending obscene messages to Pavithra Gowda.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

The Messi odyssey: of hard-earned clicks and memories

The Argentine, along with Suarez and De Paul, spent less than an hour at the Hyderabad venue, but gave the fans something to cherish for a lifetime; in a tour dominated by flash and fanfare, and beyond the stadiums and cameras, the human connections left the deepest marks

AFP

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

If anticipation surrounded Messi's arrival in Hyderabad, so did anxiety because of what had unfolded earlier in Kolkata. The scenes there, widely documented by the national and international media, prompted alarm bells in the City of Pearls. Security was tightened, protocols revisited, and nerves stretched

Four cities. Three days. Two close friends. One punishing itinerary.

That, in essence, was Lionel Messi's GOAT India Tour, a whirlwind that delivered all the adulation the Argentine icon deserved, along with a measure of chaos he could have done without.

Kolkata, where football borders on religion, was the tour's natural starting point. Mumbai and New Delhi, with their blend of glamour and power, were equally inevitable. The fourth and final stop, however, remained open, triggering a quiet contest among several States eager to host the world's most recognisable footballer.

While Messi's visit to India had been billed and advertised as a private event, there is no event in the country, especially one this high profile, that goes by without one, if not all, of the three industries having a hand in it: politics, films, and cricket.

And it is one part of that Venn diagram that ended up clinching Hyderabad's spot on the tour.

"We had competition from Gujarat and Rajasthan. Even Karnataka was trying. Some states were trying very, very hard to take him," Parvathi Reddy, Chief Patron and advisor for the Hyderabad leg of the GOAT Tour, told *The Hindu*.

"However, I had a trump card, and that was (Telangana Chief Minister) Revanth Reddy. Coincidentally, you know, he plays the sport and is passionate about it as well. Why not bring that in on the table?"

If anticipation surrounded Messi's arrival in Hyderabad, so did anxiety, largely because of what had unfolded earlier in Kolkata. The scenes there, widely documented by national and international media, prompted alarm bells in the City of Pearls. Security was tightened, protocols revisited, and nerves stretched.

Calmed nerves

When Messi landed in Hyderabad alongside Inter Miami teammates Luis Suárez and Rodrigo De Paul, there was little spectacle. Any concerns about the trio's mood after Kolkata, however, dissipated quickly.

"When we were in the car on our way from the stadium, I was telling De Paul that I have a son who is his age and is just as naughty as him. Then he began to joke about his age; he said he was 30 and was trying to play the fool. The other guys immediately chimed in and caught his lie. They were pulling each other's leg with age; they were adding two years to each other's ages and laughing about it. The vibe was very good."

"I think Hyderabad made them relax; we gave them the comfort for them to be themselves. It was not overwhelming for them, in spite of what happened in Kolkata. They landed with some fear, understandably, maybe thinking, 'What is going to happen?' But we didn't invade their personal spaces.

Messi was mobbed in the City of Joy, not by the masses but by bureaucrats, all wanting a piece of the legendary pie. Fans could barely spot their idol, and the hallowed turf of the Salt Lake Stadium, for once, left all fans, irrespective of their club or national allegiances, equally betrayed and seething with anger.

That episode shaped Hyderabad's approach.

"I did have a conversation with Messi when they all landed, and we were in the car. The first thing I told them and the whole team was that everything in Hyderabad was in control. We also told them we will not have anybody on the field at the stadium. Only the children and four photographers, no one else to mob them," she said.

Further proof of their ease came as soon as they reached Falaknuma Palace.

"There was this band playing as soon as we entered Falaknuma. The hotel arranged it, it is a regular thing they do. Bouquets were given, and then they had these dancers dancing to some music. I saw De Paul shake a leg and I was like 'okay, let's move a little bit.' He's such a wonderful character! They were all very chilled out."

Recouping investment

Messi's time in Hyderabad began with a meet-and-greet session at the Falaknuma Palace. The private event, for which tickets were sold to the crème de la crème of society for ₹10 lakh each, generated a lot of debate online.

Parvathi, however, vehemently defended the model.

"In theatres, why do we have 500 rupee tickets and then cheaper ones? Why do you segregate? It's as simple as that. Why do you have a business class ticket and a normal economy class ticket? Why don't you question that? In the end, you have to generate money to have an event like this and also make it 'normal' for regular people who wouldn't otherwise fly to Argentina or the US or somewhere to see Messi."

The demand ultimately fell short of expectations.

"We had 100 slots that we wanted to sell, but we barely sold 20 to 25. People were hardly willing to spend that kind of money. Meaning, they're still not mentally prepared, even the ones who can afford it. The response to that event was definitely very, very minimal," she said.

"Sponsors got to take a picture for free. Some we had sent as a courtesy, especially to people who have helped us put it together. There were some that were purchased and there were some that went to sponsors as a deliverable. So all of these categories of people were there."

The players moved along, insulated from these logistical elements. Their mood also got a boost when they could switch back to a more familiar tongue – Spanish – during a brief chat with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

"Rahul ji, Revanth Reddy, myself, Messi, Suarez, De Paul, all of us were there and had a chat for a few minutes around the courtyard garden. He (Rahul) had a conversation with them in Spanish, and they felt very comfortable with that."

Wants, and hard lines

The tour then moved to Uppal, where a section of the cricket stadium had been converted into a makeshift football pitch. Images of Messi, Suarez, and De Paul casually striking footballs into the stands soon flooded social media – a rare moment of ease amid a relentless schedule.

They spent less than an hour at the venue, but left behind memories that fans will carry for a lifetime. With Mumbai and Delhi still to come, the rest was the priority, though not before dinner.

"The players asked for grilled chicken and fish. De Paul told me that he loves eating sweet potatoes and requested me to ensure he gets that."

There was one unanimous instruction, however.

"They didn't want spice. The line 'We don't want spice,' was said about 10 times."

Officially, Messi's Hyderabad visit ended that night. For fans, it didn't.

"I saw a kid who had come from Mumbai. He wanted to see Messi, and at around 11:30 p.m. or so, when I was leaving the hotel, he asked me, "Aunty, will he not come out?" I said no, he's retired for the night. The next morning, I saw him waiting in the courtyard again."

And he was not the only kid at the hotel who was eager to get a brush with greatness, pushing Parvathi to improvise.

"There were a lot of children in Falaknuma who wanted a picture. I knew it would be chaotic; there were at least 20 to 30 children. Since individual pictures were not possible, I made them sit together, in three levels."

"One standing, one kneeling, and one sitting down. And I told them to leave space for three people in the center. One of Messi's personal security was unsure if a picture would happen. But I fought back and said it will happen."

"Then Messi walked out, and then all three of them went straight to the children and took a picture. They saw those kids beautifully in three levels, and I didn't have to tell them anything. They just walked straight to them and took a picture. I felt very good that I could give that picture for free to 20 children who I thought would go home happy."

Quiet regrets

While Hyderabad delivered the hospitality India prides itself on, Parvathi was left with a few personal regrets.

"My entire team couldn't get a picture with them, nor did anyone from Hyderabad Talkies (the company managing the event)," she said, adding, "But when you host something, you have to be very responsible. Our focus was fully on that, and in the end, we couldn't get a picture with the team."

Even she missed out.

"In fact, I spent a lot of time with them in the car, and I do not have a single selfie with all three of them. I still cannot believe I forgot that! Thankfully, De Paul was kind enough to suggest I take one with him when we were in the stadium."

While she couldn't get her family to also have a picture with the three players, she is glad to have gotten their autographs for her daughter-in-law.

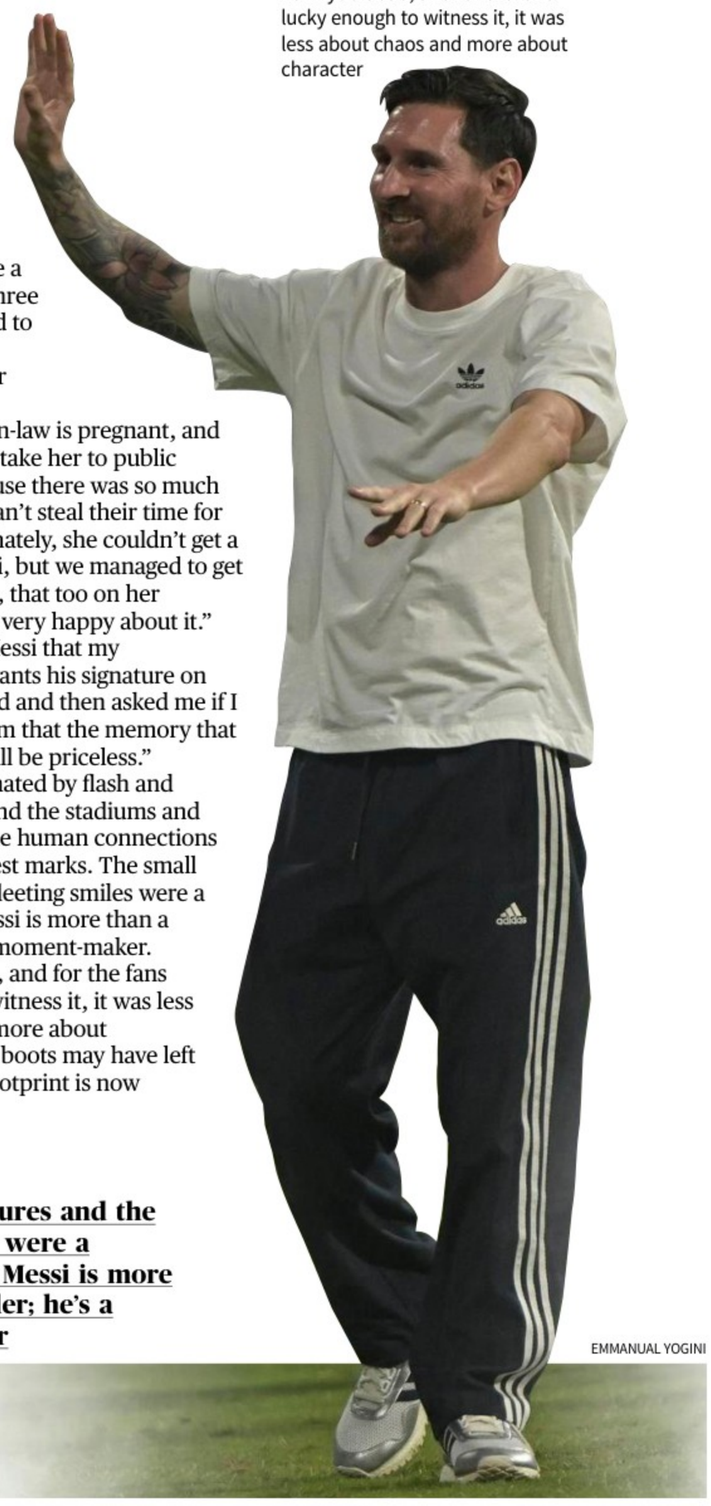
"My daughter-in-law is pregnant, and we didn't want to take her to public spaces. And because there was so much happening, you can't steal their time for yourself. Unfortunately, she couldn't get a picture with Messi, but we managed to get her his autograph, that too on her handbag! So she's very happy about it."

"When I told Messi that my daughter-in-law wants his signature on her bag, he paused and then asked me if I was sure. I told him that the memory that he will give her will be priceless."

In a tour dominated by flash and fanfare, and beyond the stadiums and cameras, it was the human connections that left the deepest marks. The small gestures and the fleeting smiles were a reminder that Messi is more than a footballer; he's a moment-maker.

For Hyderabad, and for the fans lucky enough to witness it, it was less about chaos and more about character. Messi's boots may have left the city, but his footprint is now permanent.

The small gestures and the fleeting smiles were a reminder that Messi is more than a footballer; he's a moment-maker



EMMANUAL YOGINI

THE GIST

- When Messi landed in Hyderabad alongside Inter Miami teammates Luis Suarez and Rodrigo De Paul, there was little spectacle. Any concerns about the trio's mood after Kolkata, however, dissipated quickly
- Images of Messi, Suarez, and De Paul casually striking footballs into the stands at Uppal flooded social media – a rare moment of ease amid a relentless schedule
- For Hyderabad, and for the fans lucky enough to witness it, it was less about chaos and more about character

Cab drivers protest against new parking rules at Bengaluru airport

Agitation led to congestion on the airport approach road, with police resorting to caning the protesters, who blocked the Sadahalli toll gate

A videograb showing cab drivers protesting in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cab services to and from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) were severely disrupted on Tuesday morning after hundreds of cab drivers staged a protest against the new parking and pick-up rules introduced by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL). The agitation led to traffic congestion on the airport approach road, with police resorting to caning the protesters, who blocked the Sadahalli toll gate, to disperse them.

Long queues

The protest began around 9 a.m. when cab drivers gathered near the toll plaza and blocked vehicular movement, demanding an immediate rollback of BIAL's newly introduced lane segregation and parking fee system at the airport's arrival zones.

The demonstration resulted in long queues of vehicles and delays for passengers heading to the airport during morning peak hours.

The new lane segregation system at the pick-up zones was implemented at Terminal 2 on December 11 and extended to Terminal 1 from December 13. Under the revised rules, all vehicles are allowed eight minutes of free access to the pick-up zone.

A charge of ₹150 is levied for stays between eight and 13 minutes, while vehicles staying between 13 and 18 minutes are charged ₹300. Any vehicle exceeding 18 minutes is liable to be towed to the nearest police station, with additional fines and towing charges imposed.

Cab drivers argue that the time limit is unrealistic and a financial burden to them, particularly given the operational challenges they already face.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, G. Narayanaswamy, president of the Karnataka Chalakara Okkoota, said: "The airport authorities are unfairly penalising drivers who are already struggling with rising fuel costs, toll charges, and high commissions imposed by cab aggregators".

"The airport is fully aware that 10 minutes is not enough to pick up passengers, especially when flights are delayed or when passengers have luggage or elderly family members. Despite this, these rules have been imposed without consultation. This is harassment of drivers and inconvenience to passengers," he said.

Warning of further agitation, he added that the protests would continue if BIAL did not either extend the free waiting period or withdraw the new system altogether.

Several drivers also pointed out that they were now being directed to use the P3 and P4 parking zones for pick-ups, which are located at a distance from the terminal. Prakash Kumar, a cab driver, said: "The rules were introduced five days ago, without consulting us. The new rule adds to our losses. We are forced to walk long distances to reach passengers, and the short time window makes it impossible to operate smoothly," he said, calling the charges unjust and unreasonable.

Passengers, too, expressed dissatisfaction with the new arrangements. Several travellers complained that they were made to walk long distances ranging from 800 metres to over a kilometre with heavy luggage to reach their cabs.

The issue also drew criticism on social media. Gautam Pradhan, a traveller, posted on X: "@BLRAirport has designed an obstacle course before you can get into your taxi at T1 arrivals. Anyone with baggage, kids or elders will struggle. Don't create problems! Please go back to the old system!"

95% of passengers comfortable with the new system: BIAL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid a protest by cab drivers and complaints by a few passengers that the new lane segregation system at the pick-up zone in front of Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) two terminals is causing hardship, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) on Tuesday said that nearly 95% of the passengers are currently comfortable with the new system. A BIAL spokesperson said that the updated arrival pick-up system at KIA follows practices adopted at leading airports globally, and that the airport is continuously monitoring its implementation.

"While transitions of this nature can encounter some resistance initially, nearly 95% of passengers are currently comfortable with the new system," the spokesperson said.

BIAL said that some genuine issues have been identified, and feedback is being addressed systematically keeping passenger experience at the centre.

It added that progress is closely monitored to ensure the system stabilises over the next 30 days.

"Over the years, we have received complaints, including from solo women travellers, about unauthorised taxi operators coercing passengers mid-journey to pay amounts far exceeding regulated fares or leaving them stranded if demands were not met. This poses a far greater safety risk than a walk of 300 to 500 metres. Strengthening the authorised and regulated ecosystem is therefore critical," the spokesperson said.

Special services

BIAL said that passengers with mobility challenges, infants, senior citizens, or wheelchair users will be supported through buggies and shuttle services. "No effort or expense will be spared to enhance the experience for all passengers. This is the right move from a safety standpoint. At the same time, continuous refinements will be made over the next one to two months assuring that this remains our top priority," the spokesperson said.

The initiative has allowed BWSSB engineers to accurately detect underground issues without resorting to conventional digging. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Use of robotic tech avoids digging at 38 sites to fix leakage'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has leveraged robotic inspection technology to streamline sewer and underground utility management, avoiding excavation at 38 sites and saving several lakhs in repair costs.

Since its launch on November 12, the initiative has allowed BWSSB engineers to accurately detect underground issues without resorting to conventional digging. During this period, 75 service requests were reported, with 67 addressed. Robotic inspections revealed over 93 issues, including blockages, structural defects, and internal damages, problems that would have otherwise required repeated trial-and-error excavation.

The technology has cut costs and reduced public inconvenience. The initiative spared people from road closures, traffic snarls, dust, noise, and restricted access and also enhanced worker safety by limiting manual entry into confined underground spaces.

Water supply disruption in Cauvery V stage areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on Tuesday announced an urgent repair in the Cauvery V stage water supply project owing to a leak in the transmission line. Water supply to 110 villages served by Cauvery V stage will be disrupted on Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Babu Mathew

Elected

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Council of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) on Tuesday unanimously elected Babu Mathew as the president of AITUC, Karnataka. He will replace Ananth Subba Rao, who has resigned after over five decades in the trade union movement.

Prof. Mathew comes with varied experience combining both theory and practice, a release said, adding that his experience in trade union movement during the 1970s and the 1980s combines with his experience in National Law School of India University.

LOST

This is to bring to the attention of the public and the concerned authorities that Mr. Shekar H.S, residing at No.302, Santrupthi Apartment, Virupakshapura, Tindlu Main Road, Bengaluru-560097, has lost the following personal and banking documents:

1. Karnataka Bank Passbook of account no. 9272000100027901, K.M.Doddi (Bharathinagara) Branch.
2. ATM Card linked to the above account
3. Cheque Book bearing cheque numbers 513426 to 513475
4. Fastrack Cooling Glass

The loss of the above items was accidental, and the misplaced items have not been traced despite diligent efforts. A formal complaint has already been registred with the station House Officer, Chikkajala Police Station, Bengaluru. and the matter is under neccessary process. Members of the public are requested that if anyone comes across the above mentioned or contact him at **9448738858.**
The press note is issued in the interest of preventing any possible misuse of the lost banking instruments and to officially record the loss in the public domain.

Ramesh P.S., Advocate
Vanguard Law No.20, Ground Floor, .V.N.V. Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru 560009. Contact No: 9482291991

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 2215 of 2024

M/s. CANARA BANK
VIJAYANAGAR BR., BENGALURU-560 040.
Rep. by its Chief Manager V/s. ....APPLICANT
Sri SHOAIB PASHA ....DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DRT (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

Sri SHOAIB PASHA
Aged about 21 Years, S/o. Sri Ilyas Pasha, **Prop. M/s.J.M. FURNITURE & INTERIORS,** @ #192, Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road, Jyothinagar, Near Shree Madderamma Temple, Nagarabhavi Circle, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru-560072.

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 22,32,718/=** alongwith court costs, together with current & future interest and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required to show cause **within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 9th day of July 2026 at 10:30 a.m.** either in person or duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the 10th day of Dec. 2025 at Bangalore.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1 for Karnataka BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that My Clients, intends to purchase the **Apartment bearing No.106**, mentioned in the schedule "B" property, from the respective owner Mrs.Rachel Chitra Ivan, and entered in to the Sale Agreement dated 04.11.2025, and thereafter the Absolute Sale deed will be executed by the respective owner in favour of my clients. The Owner represent and warrant that the owner collectively or individually has not conveyed or has not entered into any agreement for sale or any sort of understanding or arrangement with any persons for sale/transfer of the schedule B property (except us) and that the Owner further represent and warrant that she has not encumbered /mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule B property in any manner. And apart from her no other person/s, family members or Third person having no rights in the property, and if anybody or any person/s having rights, Objections or claims, shall with documentary evidence lodge their Objection/claim within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Notice with the undersigned failing which My Clients, shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction by getting the **ABSOLUTE SALE DEED**. And further it shall be presumed that no such claim exists and if it exists, it shall be deemed that the claimant has relinquished such claim and or waived any right to exercise such claim

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that property bearing Municipal No.3/1, (old No.4/4), Kensington Road, ward No.85 (Division No.75), Bangalore, measuring East to West: 127 feet (38.71 M) on the Northern side and 118 Feet (35.97 M) on the Southern side and North to South: 110 feet (33.53 M) on the Eastern side and 111 feet (33.83 M) on the Western side in all 13,536 Square feet or 1257.50 square Meters and bounded on the: East by : Property bearing Old Municipal No.4/5, Kensington Road, West by: Kensington Road, North by :Property bearing Old Municipal No.5, Kensington Road, South by :20 feet wide private passage

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY

Apartment bearing No.106 on the First floor of the building known as **"KENSINGTON RESIDENCY"** constructed on the Schedule "A" Property with the super built up area of 1605 Square feet, along with 7% Undivided share equivalent to 947.52 Sq.ft., right, title and interest in land in Schedule "A" Property, and one car parking space at the surface level. The property now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.79, Ward Name. Sarvagnanagar with PID No.85-58-3/5, and the Property is assigned with New No.3/5. Consisting of Three Bed Rooms, R.C.C. Building Constructed out of Brick and Cement and Honne Wood Doors and Aluminum Windows, western style fittings, Mosaic Flooring with all civic amenities.

K.MANJUNATHA LAW ASSOCIATES, ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS.
Office at No.393, 1st Floor, 19th Main Road, 1ST Block, Rajajinagar, BENGALURU-560010
MOB NO.9886199381/9886399617
Date :16.12.2025 Place: Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase Schedule Property from **Sri.V.Vijay Vinayak,** S/o.Sri.K.Vasudeva Murthy having acquired by virtue of three (i) Gift deed dated 26.08.2009 (Reg.No.933/2009-10), (ii) Gift deed dated 26.08.2009 (Reg.No.932/2009-10) & (iii) Gift deed dated 05.05.2010 (Reg.No.253/2010-11).

In view of the above, any persons, Financial Institutions, Banks, Co-operative Societies and/or anybody, who have any manner of right, title, claim, interest, charge and/or any objections in whatsoever manner for intending purchase shall file their objections with documentary proof, before the undersigned within seven days from the date of publication, and if the undersigned does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner then it shall be presumed that the Schedule Property is free from encumbrances, claims, charges, liens, mortgages and obligations and my clients shall go on with purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No.2, Municipal No.2, PID No.59-34-2, EPID No.1446389146, Situated within the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.167, Yediyuru Ward, 2nd Main, Road, 3rd Shop Lane, Tata Silk Farm, Bangalore. measuring 3249 Sq.fts along with residential building thereon comprising of Ground floor, First Floor & Second Floor and bounded by

East : Private Property
West : Road
North : Property No.38
South : Property No.35 New No.5

T.S.Venkatesh, Advocate
S-404, 4th Floor, Brigade Plaza, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore-560009 M: 98440 67528
Bangalore Date: 16.12.2025

CCH12 dt : 9/1/26

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL XVI ADDL. & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
O.S NO: 7906/2023

BETWEEN:
1. Mr. S. Panchanathan s/o. P. Subramony
2. Mrs. Lalitha Panchanathan w/o Mr. S. Panchanathan
R/at Krishna Leela Apartment, No.91, 8th Main Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru 560003 ....PLAINTIFFS
AND:
SMT. M. Rajarajeshwari and Ors.
.... DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT NO.3 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

MR. ANAND KISHORE VACHANI, S/o Pahalaji Vachani,
Proprietor of K.K. ASSOCIATES
Aged about 72 years,
No.2, 1st Floor, 1st main Road, Nehru Nagar, Bangalore - 560-020

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you along with others for declaration of title to the suit schedule property and to grant such other or further order relief/s. you are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-12) in person or through a counsel who can able to answer the allegation made against you on **9/1/2026 at 11.00 am,** failing which the suit will be heard and disposed as ex-parte.

SUIT SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the pieces and parcels of the property are situated at 8th main road. Malleswaram Bangalore 560 003, and Apartment bearing No. E-3 Situated on the 4th Floor, of a multistoried Residential apartment called "KRISHNA LEELA APARTMENT" with an area of 1018 Sq ft or 94.65 Sq. Mt.

Bounded By:
East By : Property Belonging to Challammal, West By: Private Road, East By: 8th Main Road, West By: Property No.28 belonging to Kalyanpur.
Given under my hand and a seal of the court on this date 28/11/2025.

By order of the Court
Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Govt. of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board
Science & Technology Campus, Sirkha Toli, Namkum-Tupudana Road, Namkum, Ranchi – 834010.
Website : https://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in • e-mail : jceceboard@gmail.com

Advt. No. :–JCECEB/46 /25 - 158 Ranchi/Dated: 16/12/2025

Notice regarding Merit List Preparation for Special Round of Online Counselling for Post-Graduate (Homoeopathic) All India Seats of Devki Mahavir Homeopathic Medical College & Research Hospital, Garhwa on the basis of AIAPGET- 2025 Result

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi has instructed the Board regarding the preparation of the Merit List for the Special Round of Online Counselling for admission in Post-Graduate (Homoeopathic) Courses of Devki Mahavir Homeopathic Medical College & Research Hospital, Garhwa.
(2) In compliance with the above directions, the Board will invite online applications at the All India Level on the basis of the All India Merit List and accordingly prepare the Merit List for admission in 10 vacant PG (Homoeopathic) seats. The same will be forwarded to the concerned College/University for admission.
(3) **Merit List preparation for Special Round of Online Counselling :-**It will be organized as per below schedule :–

S. N.	Activity	Schedule
a.	Online Application Form Submission by Interested & Eligible candidates [By clicking on "Click here for All Online Application Submission -JCECEB 2025" on Board's website http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in]	**17.12.2025 to 18.12.2025**
b.	Publication of Merit List for Special Round	**19.12.2025**
c.	The Merit List will be forwarded to the concerned College/University for admission	**19.12.2025**

4. **Counselling will be held as per the guidelines issued by NCISM/NCH New Delhi.**
5. **Candidates who have been admitted through any rounds of Ayush (PG) All India/state counselling are ineligible to participate in this special round counselling.**
6. **It is mandatory for the candidate to upload Score Card of Post Graduate (Homoeopathic)-2025.**
7. **Registration/Application Fee:-** Candidate will have to pay Registration/Application Fee by Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking/UPI through Payment Gateway as per below which will be non-refundable:-
(a) Application/Registration Fee :-

Sl. No.	Category	Rate
1.	All Indian candidates	₹ 1000/–
2.	SC /ST/Female candidates of jharkhand state	₹ 500/–
3.	Divyang candidate	–

8. The other terms and conditions of advertisement no. JCECEB/46/25-89 dated-19.09.2025 uploaded on the Board's website will remain same. This advertisement can be seen under "Important Notice" Column.

PR 368721 (Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board) 25-26 (D)

By the order of Controller of Examination,
Sd/-
(Ranjeeta Hembrom, J.A.S.)
Dy. Controller of Examination

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION, Construction & Maintenance Group
ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058,
Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094184, 4196, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works in NIT by **Group Head,** ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-2809 4541, 4186).

Name of work	**Replacement of Smoke Detectors, FACP Panels at substation, AHU, Central Block, Directors Block at SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.**	**Electrical work for proposed light roof structure of RDA Building, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.**
E-Tender Notice No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/ E-Tender-95/2025-26 Dated: 16.12.2025**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/ E-Tender-96/2025-26 Dated: 16.12.2025**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs. 24.09 Lakhs**	**Rs. 15.87 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**	
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**Four (04) Months**	
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs on 17.12.2025 to 31.12.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**	
Bid Clarification	**From 11.00 hrs on 18.12.2025 to 01.01.2026 to till 16.00 hrs.**	
Last date and time of reply to Bid Clarifications	**02.01.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**03.01.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**05.01.2026 up to 11.00 hrs.**	
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 48,180/-**	**Rs. 31,740/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) **Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** on the website **www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process and Product Development Centre
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India Pasalay Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes

Online Certification Training Program On

Cyber Security
USING AI TOOLS

Course Content: Security Controls & Operations, Fundamental concepts, Cryptographic solutions, Cyber Attacks – Deepfake attacks, AI-generated, Threats, vulnerabilities, and mitigations using AI tools, Threat actors and motivations, Threat vectors and attack surfaces, Vulnerabilities, Malicious activity, Mitigation techniques, Computing resources, Identity & access management, Security Operation Management, Risk management, Security awareness.

Start Date:	Time:	Fees:
20th - 28th Dec 2025	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Rs. 4,130/-

4 Days (Only Week-End) Saturday & Sunday
Contact: 9600776611, 7358887633, 8667359360
Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
E- Certificate will be Awarded
For Registration

इंडिया पोस्ट पेमेंट्स बैंक India Post Payments Bank

(A Government of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Speed Post Centre Building, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, New Delhi–110001

ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AS HINDI OFFICER (RAJBHASHA ADHIKARI) ON CONTRACT BASIS

Advt. No.: IPPB/CO/HR/RECT./2025-26/05

Applications are invited from retired officers of Central Government/Public Sector Undertaking/Public Sector Bank/Autonomous bodies having considerable experience as Rajbhasha Adhikari.

Name of the Post	Number of Vacancies	Type of Engagement	Age	Eligibility Criteria
Hindi Officer (Rajbhasha Adhikari)	01	Contract	Above 60 years and not more than 65 Years as on 01.11.2025	A Retired officer who has previously handled Rajbhasha functions/role in a government or public sector organization and must have retired in E6 or above Scale as per IDA or in Level 13 and above as per CDA Scale.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Opening date of the advertisement is 15th November 2025. Candidates are required to send a scanned copy of the application form and supporting documents to careers@ippbonline.in. The hard copy and soft copy of the application form along with the required documents, as specified in the advertisement, must reach the IPPB Corporate Office by 30th December 2025, 5:00 PM. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

For detailed advertisement and guidelines to apply, please visit our official website:
https://ippbonline.com/web/ippb/current-openings

Place: New Delhi **Sd/-**
Date: 15.11.2025 **DGM HR**

CBC 06346/12/0010/2526

Inhalable microplastics, a hidden toxin worsening the air in our cities

A study which researched the threat posed by inhalable microplastics has warned that they can also smuggle in toxic co-pollutants, including heavy metals such as lead and cadmium, and hormone-disrupting chemical compounds like diethyl phthalates; researchers found atmospheric lead levels to be highest in Kolkata, followed by Delhi

Neelanjana Rai

On successive weekends in November, hundreds of Delhi residents gathered at India Gate holding placards that read, "I miss breathing" and "right to live, not just survive". Winter's onset has once again plunged the National Capital Region into dense smog, with the air quality index refusing to exit 'severe' (301-400) or 'very poor' (201-300) levels.

Even now, regulators are scrambling to enforce graded action plans to mitigate the concentration of PM2.5 and PM10 particles in the air.

Into this toxic mix, new research has introduced a previously overlooked problem known as inhalable microplastics. According to scientists, they pose a direct and alarming risk to human health.

Atmospheric pollution has traditionally been associated with the so-called criteria pollutants; aside from the two size-wise groups of particulate matter, these include carbon monoxide, lead, sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and ozone. Of late, however, they've been joined by respirable emerging contaminants – including inhalable microplastics – fuelled in no small part by the production of 400 million metric tonnes of plastics every year. The world also releases 52.1 million tonnes a year of plastic waste into the environment.

A first-of-its-kind comprehensive study published in *Environment International* in November examined inhalable microplastics in India. These are plastic particles smaller than 10 micrometres (µm). The researchers, led by Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata professor Gopala Krishna Darbha, monitored ambient concentrations at human breathing height (1.5 m) in five highly populated markets in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.

Thus, the team estimated the average concentration of inhalable microplastics in all four cities to be 8.8 µg/m³.

This "means the average city resident is breathing in about 132 micrograms every single day," Dr. Darbha said. "This is a very high daily dose of pollution. The most critical factor is the size of these particles. They are so tiny that they can bypass our natural defences and penetrate deep into the lungs. This chronic exposure presents a serious, ongoing risk to public health."

Researchers, however, said that the greater danger is these plastic particles serving as Trojan horses that smuggle in toxic co-pollutants, including heavy metals like lead and cadmium and hormone-disrupting chemical compounds like diethyl phthalates. The team found atmospheric lead levels to be highest in Kolkata, followed by Delhi.

A smoggy winter morning, in Gurugram, on December 16, 2025. PTI

The team members also found, reportedly for the first time, that the inhalable microplastics can also carry microbes, including harmful fungi like *Aspergillus fumigatus*, that contain antibiotic-resistance genes, meaning they could spread infections that don't respond to common antibiotics.

By comparing this information with major toxicology databases, the team found that breathing these contaminated plastic particles was associated with a higher risk of cancer, hormone-related diseases, breast problems, and respiratory illnesses.

Time and place

In all four cities, winter evenings had a mean inhalable microplastic concentration of 32.7 particles/m³ while non-winter evenings averaged 18.8 particles/m³, reflecting a 74% seasonal increase during winter.

There was a significant inter-city variation as well: the data revealed that the residents of Delhi and Kolkata were exposed to high concentrations of inhalable microplastics – 14.18 µg/m³ and 14.23 µg/m³ respectively – whereas Mumbai (2.65 µg/m³) and Chennai (4 µg/m³) fared much better.

"The major factors here are meteorological conditions," Dr. Darbha said alluding to Mumbai and Chennai being coastal cities. "Second is urban population density, and the third is waste mismanagement."

Zeroing in on the particles themselves, the researchers identified 11 kinds of plastics in the air, most of them coming from places the researchers said people usually overlook.

> The most critical factor is the size of these particles. They are so tiny that they can bypass our natural defences and penetrate deep into the lungs. This chronic exposure presents a serious, ongoing risk to public health
>
> **GOPALA KRISHNA DARBHA**
> INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH KOLKATA

"The particles were primarily less than 100 µm in size (56.2%), followed by 100-500 µm (24.7%) and over 500 µm (19.1%). Fragments were more common than filaments," the team wrote in its paper.

"Larger filament-shaped airborne microplastics typically ... originate from synthetic textiles or toy fillings. Smaller fragments, often secondary airborne microplastics, arising from packaging, tyre wear, household release, cosmetics, mini- and micro-industries, construction, [and] were more prevalent due to their small size and weathering, particularly in areas like Sealdah Market and Chandni Chowk."

Policy imperative

According to Dr. Darbha, the current air quality index may capture "a certain percentage of nanoplastics" but describes the existing evidence as "too preliminary" to correlate AQI values with inhalable microplastics. He did say workers such as traffic police and labourers are especially vulnerable, since "tyre-wear particles seem to be more carcinogenic and may be a severe threat to their lungs. Policy reform is needed to protect such vulnerable groups."

The study also said the particles persist in the air due to low gravitational settling velocity.

"The government should ban single use plastic and many such polymers," he said, adding that cotton-based clothing is preferable to synthetics and that "recycled and refurbished polyester or reused fabrics ... are capable of releasing these tiny plastics."

He also said that uncontrolled waste disposal, improper waste segregation, and burning emitted poisonous gases and smaller particulate matter, some of which could piggyback on the inhalable microplastic particles into our lungs.

Overall Dr. Darbha said the study provides a new baseline for an emerging environmental crisis: "This is a starting point, and we are definitely looking forward to more results coming up in the country, to have more knowledge-sharing in the ... scientific community as well as among the common public to have more awareness."

Against the backdrop of the accumulating evidence of the persistence and harms of microplastic and nanoplastic pollution, the researchers also expressed hope that the Indian government would take serious measures regarding plastic disposal and worsening air quality.

(Neelanjana Rai is a freelance journalist who writes about indigenous communities, environment, science and health. neelanjana189@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- Atmospheric pollution has traditionally been associated with criteria pollutants; they have now been joined by respirable contaminants fuelled by the annual production of 400 million metric tonnes of plastics, and the release of 52.1 million tonnes of plastic waste
- Researchers found that inhalable microplastics can also carry microbes that contain antibiotic-resistance genes; these contaminated plastic particles were also found to be associated with a higher risk of cancer, hormone-related diseases, breast problems, and respiratory illnesses
- In all four cities, winter evenings had a mean inhalable microplastic concentration of 32.7 particles/m³ while non-winter evenings averaged 18.8 particles/m³. There was significant inter-city variation: Delhi and Kolkata fared much worse than Mumbai and Chennai

BIG SHOT

Under the Nutri3D project, scientists in Italy's public research agency are developing sweet snacks with lab-grown plant cells and fruit residues, producing a material that a 3D printer can then process into 'pastries' with high nutritional content. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Wisdom teeth: evolutionary relic

Vasudevan Mukunth

Q: Why do we have wisdom teeth?

A: The wisdom teeth are the third molars that sit at the very back of the jaw. They usually start forming in the teens and try to erupt in the late teens to the mid-20s, hence the name "wisdom".

We have wisdom teeth because of our ancestors, whose lives demanded more chewing to get through.

For most stretches of their evolution, humans' diets were tougher and grittier, including uncooked plants, fibrous roots, meat unsoftened by modern tools, and nuts and seeds. So chewing them led to more cavities and cracks (relative to today) and wore teeth down faster.

Having an 'extra set' of grinding teeth could help adult humans keep eating well into midlife before experiencing discomfort.

These human ancestors also tended to have larger jaws. Over thousands of years, however, human diets and technologies changed and cooking and other forms of processing foods reduced the daily chewing load.

At the same time, the average jaw size declined in many populations, leaving less room at the back for the third molars to erupt cleanly. This is an example of 'evolutionary mismatch', where our genes build teeth suited to older diets but our modern jaws and foods don't match those conditions.

Having an 'extra set' of grinding teeth could help adult humans keep eating well into midlife before experiencing discomfort. ENIS YAVUZ/UNSPLASH

The wisdom teeth are the last adult teeth to erupt, so they compete for space after the jaw has already settled. Sometimes they emerge at awkward angles, if they emerge at all, and require dental care if they become a source of discomfort.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Joint enforcement operation targets pubs ahead of New Year celebrations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of the Goa pub fire tragedy, multiple departments have launched a joint operation for the first time in the city to crack down on pubs, bars, and restaurants that are violating norms and lacking basic infrastructure.

The development comes ahead of the New Year celebrations, which is likely to draw large crowds to party venues across the city. The departments involved in the operation include the Bengaluru City Police, five city corporations, Bescom, the Fire and Emergency Services, the Health and Family Welfare Department, and the Excise Department.

This year, commercial establishments violating floor plan and trade licence norms will lose permission to conduct any parties. Establishments hosting special events such as concerts and involving public figures are strictly required to introduce a pass system. In addition, they must have a crowd management plan in place. If any establishment is found violating rules during the celebrations, permission will be revoked on the spot.

Commercial establishments and party organisers will be held accountable if any untoward incident occurs within their premises. Such organisers will be booked without leniency, a senior police officer said.

Guidelines for organisers

- No permission will be granted for underground or terrace parties
- Submission of a party plan and police verification is mandatory
- Additional security deployment for women's safety
- Organisers must carry mandatory identification cards
- Hotel room or suite parties are not permitted
- Pubs are prohibited from allowing patrons to consume drinks purchased at their establishments on public roads
- Organisers and hotel owners will be held responsible in the event of any untoward incident
- LED screens are not permitted outside establishments

"Many establishments flout approved floor plans and install additional structures to increase floor capacity. Such minor violations can lead to disasters, which is why we have launched this early drive," a senior police officer told *The Hindu*.

In a welcome move, officials will also inspect the kitchens of commercial establishments to ensure cleanliness. Establishments must also have a well-established waste disposal system in order to obtain permission.

While smaller establishments may be granted limited relaxation, major party hubs such as the Central Business District, Koramangala, Electronics City, Dr. Rajkumar Road, New BEL Road, and Indiranagar will be required to strictly comply with the norms issued by all departments.

A well-placed police source said that individual departments will focus on violations within their respective jurisdictions. The police will check security-related violations, while civic bodies will examine violations of approved floor plans and trade licences.

Similarly, the Fire Department will inspect fire safety equipment and other safety measures, Bescom will check power leakage and electrical systems, and the Excise Department will verify liquor storage.

Ahead of New Year's Eve, all establishments must submit details of their party plans, DJs invited, and guest lists to the local police station. The police will conduct background checks and issue permission to party organisers.

Organisers must also ensure complete CCTV camera coverage of their premises. If CCTV systems are not in place, they have been instructed to install temporary cameras to cover the area.

In addition to hotel regulations, paying guest facilities must submit details of temporary residents for the New Year period to the police before December 31. All details must be collected mandatorily.

Karnataka tops National Energy Conservation Awards 2025

BENGALURU: Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) has won the National Energy Conservation Awards 2025 under the State Energy Efficiency Performance Award (SDA Group-1) category, The second place was taken by Maharashtra.

President Droupadi Murmu presented the award in New Delhi on December 14 during the National Energy Conservation Day celebrations.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT INDORE
Prabandh Shikhar, Rau-Pithampur Road, Indore – 453556

NOTICE FOR ADMISSION INTO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN MANAGEMENT (DPM) – 2026

Specialization: Communication, Economics, Finance and Accounting, Humanities and Social Sciences, Information Systems, Marketing Management, Operations Management and Quantitative Techniques, Organizational Behaviour and Human Resource Management, Strategic Management.

Financial Support: Stipend of Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 45,000/- per month, International Conference Grant of Rs. 2 Lakhs, National Conference Grant of Rs. 1.2 Lakh, Research Development Grant of Rs. 1.5 Lakh. Free boarding and lodging for the students.

Last date for submission of the online application form is **February 28, 2026.**
For detailed information, please visit **www.iimidr.ac.in**

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- Other Stakeholders

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01 **Chardham Yatra** — 15 DAYS — 7022259008
Haridwar, Hanuman Chetty, Yamunotri, Uttarakashi, Gangotri, Rudra Prayaga, Gupta Kashi, Kedarnath, Mana, Keshava Prayaga, Badrinath, Rishikesh
Dates: APR 19, 22, 25, 28. MAY 4, 7, 10, 13, 19, 22, 25, 28. JUN 4, 7, 10, 13, 19, 22, 25, 28. JUL 4, 7, 10, 13.

02 **Shimla - Manali – Vaishnodevi** — 14 DAYS — 7022259008
New Delhi, Kurukshetra, Chandigarh, Shimla, Kufri, Kullu, Manali, Atal Tunnel & Solang Valley (Optional), Baijnath, Kangra Vajreshwari, Chamunda, Jwalamukhi, Katra, Vaishnodevi, Wagha Border, Amritsar.
Dates: FEB 6, 20. MAR 6, 20. APR 3, 10, 17, 24. MAY 8, 22. JUN 5, 19.

03 **Ayodhya - Kashi – Gaya** — 9 DAYS — 9364088424
Naimisharanya, Ayodhya Prayagraj (Triveni Sangama), Chitrakoot, Bodhgaya, Gaya, Varanasi, (Kashi), Saranath.
Dates: JAN 30. FEB 13, 27. MAR 13, 27. APR 10, 24. MAY 8. JUNE 5, 19.

04 **Nepal - Ayodhya – Kashi** — 12 DAYS — 9364104366
Prayagraj (Triveni Sangama), Ayodhya, Sunauli Border, Manokamana, Kathmandu, Lumbini, Gorakhpur, Gaya, Bodhgaya, Varanasi (Kashi), Saranath.
Dates: FEB 14. MAR 14. APR 11. MAY 9. JUNE 13. JUL 11.

05 **Kashi - Gaya - Ayodhya** — 6 DAYS — 9364104365
Prayaga Raj (Triveni Sangama), Ayodhya, Gaya, Bodhgaya, Varanasi (Kashi), Saranath.
Dates: JAN 24. FEB 7, 21. MAR 7, 21. APR 5, 18. MAY 2, 16. JUNE 13, 27.

06 **Golden Triangle Tour** — 6 DAYS — 9364104373
Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra, Mathura, Brindavan, New Delhi.
Dates: FEB 6, 20. MAR 6, 20. APR 10, 24. MAY 8, 22. JUNE 5, 19.

07 **Shimla - Kullu - Manali** — 9 DAYS — 7022259007
Delhi, Shimla, Kullu, Kufri, Manali, Solang Valley & Atal Tunnel (Opt), Manikarnika, Chandigarh.
Dates: JAN 21. FEB 11, 25. MAR 11, 25. APR 15, 29. MAY 13, 27. JUNE 10, 24.

08 **Nepal - Pashupathinath – Mukthinath** — 10 DAYS — 7022259008
Gorakhpur, Pokhara, Mukthinath, Jomsom, Manokamana, Kathmandu, Sunauli Border, Lumbini.
Dates: FEB 28. MAR 28. APR 25. MAY 23. JUN 20. JUL 25. AUG 22.

09 **Amritsar - Dharmashala – Vaishnodevi** — 9 DAYS — 7975001525
Kangra Vajreshwari, Chamunda, Jwalamukhi, Dharmshala, Dalhousie, Khajjiar, Katra, Vaishnodevi.
Dates: JAN 22, 30. FEB 14, 22. MAR 13, 21. APR 10, 18. MAY 15, 23. JUN 12, 20.

10 **Kashmir Vaishnodevi Tour** — 8 DAYS — 7022259007
Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Srinagar, Gulmarg, Katra, Vaishnodevi.
Dates: JAN 25. FEB 8, 15. MAR 1, 8, 16, 23. APR 5, 12, 20, 27. MAY 10, 17, 25. JUN 1, 14, 21.

11 **Ayodhya – Kashi – Baidhyanath** — 8 DAYS — 9364104373
Ayodhya, Prayagraj (Triveni Sangama), Varanasi (Kashi), Saranath, Gaya, Bodhgaya, Baidhyanath Jyothirlinga.
Dates: JAN 28, FEB 25. MAR 25. APR 22. MAY 20. JUNE 24. JUL 22.

12 **Mussoorie - Corbett – Nainital** — 12 DAYS — 7022259008
Mussoorie, Kempty Falls, Rishikesh, Haridwar, Jim Corbett national Park, Kausani, Baijnath, Bageshwar, Jageshwar, Kainchi Dham, Sat Tal, Bhimtal, Naukuchiatal, Nainital, New Delhi
Dates: FEB 6, 20. MAR 6, 20. APR 10. MAY 8, 22. JUN 5, 19.

13 **South India Tour** — 10 DAYS — 7022259008
Kancheepuram, Chidambaram, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Srirangam, Rameshwaram, Madurai, Kanyakumari, Nagercoil, Suchindram, Thiruvananthapuram, Kalady, Guruvayur, Nanjangudu
Dates: JAN 22. FEB 5, 19. MAR 5, 19. APR 2, 16, 30. MAY 7, 21. JUN 4, 18.

14 **Kerala Special Tour** — 7 DAYS — 9364104373
Guruvayur, Kalady, Alleppey, Thekkady, Munnar, Kochin, Wayanad.
Dates: JAN 29. FEB 12, 26. MAR 12, 26. APR 9, 16, 30. MAY 14, 28. JUN 11, 25.

15 **Rameshwaram - Kanyakumari – Madurai** — 5 DAYS — 7022259007
Rameshwaram, Madurai, Kanyakumari, Srirangam, Thanjavur.
Dates: JAN 22. FEB 5, 19. MAR 5, 19. APR 2, 16, 30. MAY 7, 21. JUN 4, 18.

16 **Navagraha Darshan** — 4 DAYS — 7975001525
Thingalur, Thirunageshwaram, Kanjanur, Keezhaperumpallam, Suryanar Koil, Alangudi, Thirunallar, Thiruvenkadu, Vaitheeswaran Koil, Kumbakonam.
Dates: JAN 29. FEB 12, 26. MAR 12, 26. APR 9, 16, 30. MAY 14, 28. JUN 11, 18, 25.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of arrests on the India-Bangladesh border in 2025

2,556 In a written reply, the Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai gave the data on infiltration attempts and arrests of infiltrators across the Indian borders with Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar. PTI

China's anti-dumping tariffs on pork imports from the EU

18.9 In per cent. Beijing also levied anti-dumping duties on European brandy, most notably cognac produced in France, though major brandy producers received exemptions. Imports of dairy products from the EU were also subject to anti-dumping probes. PTI

Global economic losses from natural disasters in 2025

220 In billion dollars. Natural disasters caused an estimated $220 billion in global economic losses in 2025, according to reinsurer Swiss Re. This marks a 33% decline compared to the previous year, mainly due to a much milder North Atlantic hurricane season. AFP

Deaths caused by a fog accident on the Mathura expressway

13 At least 13 people were killed and 43 injured after multiple vehicles collided due to dense fog on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura. The pile-up involved several buses and smaller vehicles, some of which caught fire, leaving passengers trapped. Police said low visibility caused the crash. PTI

Voter names deleted from draft electoral rolls in Rajasthan

41.85 In lakh. According to the state Chief Electoral Officer Naveen Mahajan, around 11 lakh voters will be issued notices seeking their documents. He said the highest number of voter deletions were in Jaipur. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The future of governance in post-Maoist India

India's Fifth Schedule areas became the hotbed of Maoist insurgencies due to administrative neglect, exacerbating discontent and a lack of representation of tribal groups in local bodies. Effective governance is crucial to address these issues and mitigate the ongoing challenges in these regions

FULL CONTEXT

Niranjan Sahoo

A key element missing in the dominant discourse around the evolution and growth of the Maoist movement is governance. An overwhelming volume of empirical literature accounts the rapid growth of the Maoist movement in the 1990s and early 2000s to underdevelopment, and structural socio-economic issues. This is evident from the scores of official, non-official and scholarly articles which have attempted to study the "root causes" for insurgency in central and eastern India (popularly called the Red Corridor). These articles have argued for an accelerated development push to address the acute material needs of an impoverished population which includes many vulnerable tribes. As a result of these articulations, the Indian state has been relying on a "two-pronged" approach (combining security and development) to counter the Maoist threat.

This does not mean other factors such as governance, justice redressal and other issues have been completely neglected in the official discourse. On several occasions, policy makers and official reports have sought to bring attention to creating good governance frameworks and quicker justice redressal mechanisms to address the long-standing grievances of the affected population. But there has been little effort to understand the governance challenges that intensified the Maoist insurgency in different cycles.

Unpacking challenges of governance

While the Maoist insurgency has evolved in different phases since the Naxalbari uprising (1967), the movement in its current avatar has largely been concentrated around the Fifth Schedule areas of central and eastern India – States with substantial tribal populations.

The Fifth Schedule was conceptualised and offered as a new social contract to the *adivasis* in these regions, by the framers of the Constitution, taking into account the special needs of the population. The Schedule provided a legal framework and instrumentality for governance of these tribal homelands. It offered special provisions such as the Tribal Advisory Council with three-fourth of members from the *adivasi* population and a special financial provision via the tribal sub-plan. Further, the Governor of each State was given discretionary powers to oversee the enforcement of these provisions, particularly with respect to checking land alienation.

However, extensive provisions notwithstanding, the local populations were subjected to the severest forms of discrimination and exploitation in everyday life. As recorded in the Planning Commission's Expert Committee Report (2008), a vast region with abundant natural resources was reduced to penury due to state neglect and poor governance. That these special provisions were of little use is evident from tribal populations' persistently low social and economic status compared to other social groups. The Oxford University Multidimensional Poverty Index in 2010 ranked the region worse than Sub-Saharan Africa. Yet, for tribal populations, the far bigger challenge was how to exercise their rights over the land and forests. Despite legal safeguards and constitutional protection against arbitrary land acquisition, millions of them were dispossessed to penury. In his seminal study, writer Walter Fernades found that "more tribals have lost their land since the commencement of economic liberalisation than any time in the post-independent history".

Returning home: Maoists with copies of the Constitution of India, after they surrendered at the police lines in Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, on October 17. PTI

Thus, while the Constitution makers imagined a new lease of life for the *adivasis* under the Fifth Schedule, successive governments failed to bring up appropriate governance structures to transform this lofty vision into reality. The same colonial structures and administrative forms, rules of business, and justice system were retained for Scheduled Areas, which made tribal groups, with very low literacy, barely able to understand these rules and the modern justice system.

A lack of representation

What deepened the alienation was the complete absence of locals in the administrative units implementing provisions enumerated in the Fifth Schedule. B.D. Sharma, the then commissioner of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Commission, succinctly put that "the personnel who are overwhelmingly outsiders carried their attitudes, bias and lived experiences while performing day to day tasks". Importantly, apex bodies such as a separate Ministry of Tribal Welfare, and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes created to oversee the execution of special provisions for the tribal population, as vividly observed by the Mungekar Committee (2009), did very little to stop the exploitation.

Moreover, while the Governors are constitutionally assigned to protect the interests of *adivasis* in Schedule areas, not a single Governor has acted since Independence in these regions. These institutions have been further handicapped by weak and ineffective service delivery institutions such as health, education, revenue, police, and the judiciary.

The lone exception was the Panchayat Extension to Schedule Areas Act (PESA), 1996. PESA was enacted to address *adivasi* underrepresentation and alienation in the form of "self-governance". These democratic forums were envisioned to create space for *adivasis* to take their own decisions on welfare issues, land, natural resources, livelihood and preservation of culture and their way of life. While PESA made some substantial changes by improving political representation at the lower level of governance, key provisions were routinely violated. The Expert Committee Report (2008) found flagrant violations of PESA by the appointed officials. One of the most abused provisions has been with regards to land acquisition.

To sum up, governance maladies and relatively low political priority accorded to the Fifth Schedule in many ways created a fertile ground for the Maoist leadership to mobilise the aggrieved *adivasi* population against the Indian state. The growing governance deficits which directly impacted development, welfare functions and mitigation of local grievances created an opportunity for the Maoists to spread their ideologies of a people's government (*Janatan Sarkar*). There is a rich body of evidence that indisputably credits tribal frustrations, anger and low trust in governance institutions as the reasons that drove many *adivasis* to support Maoist ideology and revolutionary missions. Many relied on the Maoist movement as some sort of instrument to get justice from state agencies such as the police, forest and revenue departments (which they often viewed as corrupt and oppressive). For instance, the entire Dandakaranya region largely characterised by extreme underdevelopment and poor governance was easily captured by the underground Maoists in the 1990s with the promise of providing ownership to *adivasis* over lands, and the forest (under the broad slogan of *Jal, Jungle and Zameen*). Persistent governance and development deficits created a space for Maoists to run parallel governments (offering critical services such as paramedics, schools, food rations and speedy justice through kangaroo courts) in many of their strongholds.

Need for a new imagination

Going forward, India must pay close attention to governance paradoxes that continue to plague most regions under the Fifth Schedule. In recent years, there has been visible improvement in key service functions, particularly with respect to welfare schemes and critical infrastructure (roads, electricity, telecom) in Maoist affected regions. Both the Centre and affected States have found ways to improve service delivery functions via digital technology and cash transfer. However, critical service delivery institutions such as justice, health, education, policing, and revenue functions remain thin and unsatisfactory. Persistent structural bottlenecks (under-representation of locals) in the existing governance system have a significant bearing in their effectiveness.

On the other side, crucial rights-based legislations like the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and PESA need greater political push from the Centre as well affected States. The FRA which remains a key legal tool to protect the rights of *adivasis* and forest dwellers to access forest resources for their sustenance is batting for its survival today. While many core provisions have been violated by state institutions, there have also been amendments and judicial interventions in recent years which have diluted its original mandate and effectiveness. In addition, the enactment and expansion of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 has grossly diluted legal safeguards, apart from affecting the livelihoods of forest dwellers in India. Similarly, PESA despite initial promises faces growing resistance from the States concerned. Under pressure to unlock huge mineral deposits, most State governments in Fifth Schedule Areas have undermined the powers granted to Gram Sabhas under PESA, particularly on the issues of granting consent for mining/land acquisition. Incidentally, the most widespread violations of PESA has been in the most Maoist-affected State of Chhattisgarh.

Thus, going forward priorities must include the reversal of political and administrative under-representation of *adivasis*. While there are mandatory quotas at the local levels, considering these self-governing bodies lack real autonomy and financial power, representation remains largely performatory. The permanent bureaucracy (overwhelmingly non-tribal) still calls the shots. Given the persistent alienation and trust deficits among the local population, the post-Maoist Fifth Schedule Areas governance vision can benefit by borrowing some feathers from the Sixth Schedule Areas which are governed by Autonomous Districts/Zonal Councils. In short, post-Maoist India needs a new governance charter.

Niranjan Sahoo is Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, Delhi.

THE GIST

While the Maoist insurgency has evolved in different phases since the Naxalbari uprising (1967), the movement in its current avatar has largely been concentrated around the Fifth Schedule areas of central and eastern India — States with substantial tribal populations.

As recorded in the Planning Commission's Expert Committee Report (2008), a vast region with abundant natural resources was reduced to penury due to state neglect and poor governance.

Going forward, India must pay close attention to governance paradoxes that continue to plague most regions under the Fifth Schedule.

From Page One

Trial in Renukaswamy murder case from today

According to police, he was taken to a shed in Bengaluru, where Darshan, Pavithra Gowda and others allegedly assaulted him to death. The body was later dumped in a storm water drain in an attempt to conceal the crime, as stated in the 3,991-page charge sheet filed on September 3, 2024.

Pavithra was named as Accused No. 1 and Darshan as Accused No. 2, detailing the alleged role of each accused in the crime. A supplementary charge sheet was submitted later.

Renukaswamy's mutilated body was discovered near a storm water drain at Sumanahalli in west Bengaluru on June 9, 2024. The following day, four persons appeared at a police station and confessed to the crime. Subsequent questioning, however, led investigators to actor Darshan and his associate Pavithra Gowda.

The 17 accused have now been charged under Section 302 (murder), 359 (kidnapping), 120(b) (criminal conspiracy), 204 (attempt to destroy evidence) among other Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Two arrested on drug peddling charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police arrested two persons for allegedly selling ganja near Hebbal, while another accused was taken into custody in a separate operation by the Kengeri police, officials said on Tuesday.

According to the police, personnel from the Hebbal police station acted on a tip-off on December 13 and conducted a raid near V. Naganahalli, close to a railway track. During the operation, two individuals were allegedly caught selling ganja to customers on a two-wheeler. The police detained the duo and seized the drugs.

According to the police, the accused were allegedly involved in the illegal sale of banned narcotic substances to earn quick money. The police seized 2.93 kg of ganja along with the two-wheeler used for the alleged sale. The total value of the seized items has been estimated at ₹2.09 lakh.

In a separate incident, the Kengeri police arrested one person on December 11 for allegedly selling ganja near the helipad close to Kengeri Satellite Club. Acting on tip-off, the police conducted a raid and seized 560 gm of ganja, valued at around ₹60,000.

A police official said, "The accused was allegedly supplying ganja to construction workers and local youth. A case has been registered under the NDPS Act, 1985. The accused has been remanded to judicial custody. Further inquiry is ongoing."

Legislative Assembly adopts GBA amendment Bill to add members

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted the Greater Bengaluru Governance (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, that seeks to include members of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha, the Legislative Assembly, and the Legislative Council as members of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) if they come under its jurisdiction.

Piloting the Bill, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said names of some of the elected representatives, including Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murthy and Chickballapur MP K. Sudhakar, had been left out from the GBA as its members, though they came under the GBA jurisdiction. The proposed amendment would provide for adding their names.

Ex-officio members

It is also aimed at including Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary to Urban Development Department, and Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary to Finance Department as ex-officio members of the GBA.

The Bill also provides for inclusion of ACS to Urban Development Department as a member of the Executive Committee of the GBA.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during the Winter Session of the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Tuesday. PTI

It also provides for re-division of wards in respect to newly incorporated local areas to be carried out within a specified period.

The Deputy Chief Minister agreed to the suggestion by the Opposition members to drop the provision for appointing nominated members to the GBA.

Earlier, BJP member S. Suresh Kumar said: "There are 369 members in the GBA. If the government adds one nominated person for every 20,000 population, there would be another 369 members. This would create confusion."

Changing houses

The Deputy Chief Minister also endorsed the views of Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok that the trend of Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council members frequently changing their addresses to gain voting rights in different local bodies should be discouraged.

DKS to call meeting on Jalahalli underpass work

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru City Development portfolio, on Tuesday told the Legislative Assembly that he would convene a meeting of MLAs concerned and officials under the leadership of Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok to discuss measures to expedite the Jalahalli underpass work in Bengaluru.

He was replying during Question Hour to BJP member Muniraju, who took exception to the delay in commencement of work on the underpass despite allocating necessary funds.

Responding to this, the Deputy Chief Minister explained that the tender for construction of the underpass had been awarded to a contractor in 2021 for an amount of ₹57.22 crore. While 48 property owners have been identified for acquisition of land at a total cost of ₹139 crore, a compensation of ₹85.70 crore had been paid to 22 owners. To a question by member S.T. Somashekar on pending white-topping work of Holiday Village Road, the Deputy Chief Minister said he would talk to the contractor and direct him to expedite the work.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. Hidayath Ulla Khan son of Mr. M.H. Pathan,** residing No.303, D Block, Elegant Aster, Geddalahalli, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 077 is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the original Sale Deed dated 07-10-2005, document No.2052/2005-06 and Release Deed dated 14-03-2007, document No.6652/2006-07, both registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Kolar, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 11-12-2025 vide Lost Report No.1951965/2025. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the converted for non-agricultural commercial purpose, vide Official Memorandum No. ALN.SR(K)135/12-13 dated 26-07-2013 issued by the Additional District Commissioner, Kolar District, Kolar, measuring a full extent of 4-19 in Sy. No.11 situated in **Kondenahalli Village, Vemagallu Hobli, Kolar Taluk, Kolar District,** and bounded on the:

East by : Land bearing Sy. No.12 belonging to Sri H. Ramegowda; West by : Land bearing Sy. No. 10 belonging to Sri Muniyappa; North by : K.S. Road (chikkaballapura Road); and South by : Land bearing Sy. No.7.

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436

Government of Karnataka
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI
PWD Quarters No.110-D,Opp. HKES Womens Polytechnic College, Iwan-E-Shahi Colony KALABURAGI-585102, Ph./Fax No.08472-241982, E-mail:ee.khsdrp.klb@gmail.com

No.HFW/EE/DIVN/KLB/AE-2/Tenders/2025-26/1264 Date:15.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, H & FWD Engineering Division Kalaburagi invites tenders online in KPP portal for the following works.

Sl. No. Description of work, 1) Supply installation & commissioning of one Wash Extractor 30/60kg Machine, & one Digital Air Source heat pump water heater at MCH Hospet & one Digital Air source heat pump water heater at DH Hospet in Vijayanagar Dist. (WI 1411) Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. In Lakhs) **: 36.79,** Earnest Money deposit (In Rs) : **73,600.00,** Category : Gen, Period of completion including Monsoon : 2 months. 2) Supply installation & commissioning of one Wash Extractor 30/60kg Machine, & one Digital Air Source heat pump water heater at MCH Ballari & one Digital Air source heat pump water heater at DH Ballari (WI 1835) Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. In Lakhs) **: 36.79,** Earnest Money deposit (In Rs) : **73600.00,** Category : Gen. Period of completion including Monsoon : 2 months. 3) Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Gandhinagar-B in Sindhanur taluk of Raichur District (WI No.907/call-2), Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. In Lakhs) : **54.41,** Earnest Money deposit (In Rs.) : **55,000.00,** Category : Cat-II(A), Period of completion including Monsoon : 6 months.

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date & time for receipt of Tender Online in the Kppp-portal. : **31.12.2025 up to 16:00 hours,** 2. Last date & time for opening of technical bids : **01.01.2026 at 16.30 hours. Note:** 1).Please note henceforth any changes in the shedule will not published through newspaper & further changes will be updated only in kppp portal. 2) All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids/individual bid etc., without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
H & FWD Engineering Division,
Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/859/Deshpande Publicity//2025-26

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAILENDRA Darbha Lakshmi Narayana, s/o; Krishna Gangadhar, r/o; A–232, Sona Vistaas Apartment, Akshaya Nagar, Begur, Blr – 560076. Have changed my name as Sailendra Darbha.

I, SHAHUL Hameed Beer Mohamed, R/a No.41, 2nd Main Road, Arokyamma Layout, K.G.Halli, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Shahul Hame Ed vide affidavit dt: 11.12.2025 sworn before Notary Sumithra.N, B'luru

I, NAGESH Pujari S/o Rajendra Pujari R/o Flat No.224,1st Phase, Shahabazaar GDA Colony, Gulbarga, Kalaburagi, Karnataka-585101, have changed my minor daughter's name from Vaishnavi aged 16 years to Vaishnavi Pujari forever vide affidavit dated 23/08/2025 sworn before Notary Deepa.M, B'luru.

I, SUJATA Rohan Sharma, R/at FH-291, Scheme No.54, Vijaya Nagar, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452010, have changed my name from Sujata Rohan Sharma to Sujata Malhotra vide affidavit dated 13/12/2025 sworn before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, Sujata Malhotra M/o Evana Rohan Sharma, R/at FH-291, Scheme No.54, Vijaya Nagar, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452010, have changed my minor daughter name from Evana Rohan Sharma to Evana Malhotra vide affidavit dated 13/12/2025 sworn before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, WASI Abbas Khan, R/at Flat No.10 F1, Royalton Apt, Willington Co, Willington Street, Richmond Town, Museum Road, Bengaluru-560025 have changed my name from Wasi Abbas Khan to Syed Wasi Abbas vide affidavit dated 13/12/2025 sworn before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE
Before the Court of Principal District Judge Virudhunagar District @ Srivilliputhur C.O.S. No. 77/2019

A.L. Sekar S/o S. Alagappan Chettiar, No. LG3, Hansa Garden, Madampakkam Main Road, Raja Kilpakkam, Chennai-600073
(The above plaintiff is represented by Power Agent Muppakkarai)
... Plaintiff
/Versus/
1. K. Suresh Varma, S/o K.VS. Raju, No. 1311, 25th Main Road, 9th Block, Jaya Nagar, Bangalore-560069
2. M/s. Swarnabhoomi Infra Tech Pvt. Ltd.
Represented by ita Managing Director, Mr. K. Suresh Varma, No. 1311, 25th Main Road, 9th Block, Jaya Nagar, Bangalore-560069
3. Madhurai Golden Forms and Resorts Pvt. Ltd.
Represented by its Managing Director, No. 13, Between 7 and 8th Cross Wodeyar Complex, Sampege Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore
4. E.Ponni W/o A. Manikandan, D.No. 2/7-11-1, Muthaiah Chettiyar Compound Raja Mill Road, Madurai South Madurai
... 1 to 4 Defendants

NOTICE
Take notice that above Defendants 1 & 2 should appear either in person or through pleader on 12.01.2026 at 10.00 AM before the Principal District Judge, Virudhunagar District @ Srivilliputhur for cross examination of PWI in t he above case without fail. Failing which the case will be proceeded in your absence in accordance with law.

Advocate
Thiru. G.Mariappan B.A., B.L.,
122, Railway Feeder Road,
Virudhunagar

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDL JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C. AT HASSAN
R.A. NO 90/2024
APPELLANT: Kum. Ganashree D/o Santhosh Kumar H.R R/o Kashivishwanath temple, Hunasinakere Road, Hassan Disrtict & Taluk.
-vs-
Respondent: Ramakrishna and others.
Respondent No:4: H.R Lohit Kumar S/o Ramakrishna R/o E-III.29, Z.I.L. Colony, Zuari Nagar, Goa.
PAPER PUBLICATION
The appellant Kum. Ganashree filed appeal before 2nd Addl Senior civil Judge at Hassan against H.R Lohit Kumar S/o Ramakrishan and arryed as Respondent no.4 in this R.A. No. 90/2024. If you have any claim, right in this appeal your should appear on hearing date: 08-01-2026 otherwise court will proceed the appeal in your absence.
Given under the seal and signature of the court on the date: 16-12-2025.
By order of the Hon'ble Court: Sherastedar, 2nd Addl Senior Civil Judge at Hassan.
Advocate for Appellant: Sujith D.K
Place: Hassan
Date:16-12-2025

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE SPECIAL SUBORDINATE JUDGE, TIRUNELVELI
MACOP.NO.659/2025
Ravikumar
...Petitioner
Vs
Ranjith, S/o.Rangaraj
No.10, SSS Building,
A V Road, Chamarajpet,
Bangalore, Karnataka-560018
...1st Respondent

NOTICE
Please take notice that the petitioner in the above case has filed claim application on account of injuries sustained by him in a vehicular accident held on 04-11-2024 at Kalugumalai-Kovilpatti Road, Near Duraisamypuram EB Office. The above case is posted on 07-01-2026 for appearance of the 1st respondent before this Hon'ble Court on 10.00 A.M. failing which the court will decide the 1st respondent as "Called Exparte" in this case.
-As per Court Order-
By Advocate
A.SELVARAJ, B.Sc., B.L.,
Tuticorin. ✆ 99940 21194

OFFICE OF THE PRL. DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, MYSURU

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION

Subject: Inviting Proposals(Quotations) for procurement of Cleaning Persons for cleaning purpose through Outsource on Service Contract Service basis to the Mysuru Courts and Taluka Courts – reg.
Ref: **1.** Letter No. LAW-LAC/82/2025 dated 25.09.2025 of The Prl. Secretary to the Government, LAW, Justice and Human Rights, Karnataka State Government, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
2. Letter No. DJA/82/2007 dated 08.10.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
3. Office note and order passed thereon.

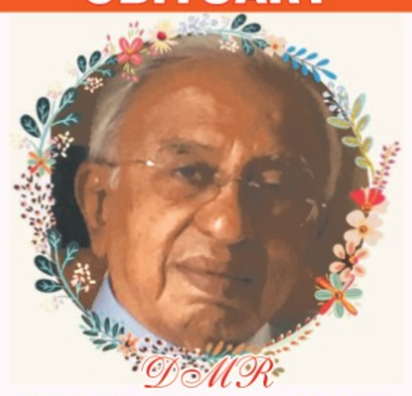
This office invites e-Bidding request for proposals (Quotations) from Manpower Service providers who are interested to supply Cleaning Persons for cleaning purpose through outsource on Service Contract basis to Mysuru Court and Taluka Courts of Mysuru District from eligible and interested Firms/Agencies/Operators having business/ branch office, through e-procurement portal (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**), for a period of 3 years, renewable each year, from the date of commencement and extendable beyond, until the onboarding of next subsequent agency. The details of the numbers of manpower required, are as under:

Sl. No.	Item	Details
1	Tender Number	e- tender Notification No. 7/2025 (Cleaning Persons), dated 08.12.2025
2	Tender Name/ Service sought for:	Procurement of Cleaning Persons for cleaning purpose through Outsource on Service Contract basis on the basis of area of the premises i.e., 38036.94 Sq.m in total to perform all cleaning but not limited to following services: a) Dusting- Once in every 2 days at a given location. b) Sweeping- Thrice in a day, specifically once before the commencement of Office Working Hours c) Mopping- Twice a day, specifically once before the commencement of Office Working Hours, and Any other services that may arise during the engagement of work services. The Bidding amount should include all the expenditure such as wages and statutory benefits, if applicable to the manpower, cost of the cleaning materials, equipment costs, charges and taxes, for the above said services, whatsoever it may be.
3	Procurement entity	The Chief Administrative Officer, District & Sessions Court, Mysuru.
4	Tender Authorities	Inviting Authority: The In-charge Chief Administrative Officer, District & Sessions Court, Mysuru. Evaluating Authority: The In-charge Chief Administrative Officer, District & Sessions Court, Mysuru. Accepting Authority: Prl. District & Sessions Judge, Mysuru. Appellate Authority: The Registrar General, Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
5	Validity of the Tender contract	**3 years**, renewable each year, subject to the satisfactory quality/ performance or until order of discontinuation of the said service.
6	Bidding Mode	**The total monthly cost of the services**, including all the expenditure such as wages to the manpower, cost of the cleaning materials, charges and taxes, for the above said services, not exceeding 5,00,000/- rupees per month
7	Estimated Approximate Total Tender Cost	No estimation drawn, as no such reference to calculate for the said services is found. **Rs. 60,00,000/- (per annum)** is taken as Nominal Estimated Tender Cost for KPP website requirement only.
8	EMD Amount	**Rs.1,20,000/- (Nominal EMD with no link to Tender estimation coast) PBG will be based on the Tender awarded value.**
9	Billing model	Billing after completion of each calendar month, subject to the satisfactory performance.
10	Last date for clarification : **17.12.2025 at 4.30 p.m.**	
11	Closing Date and Time for submission of Tender proposal: **23.12.2025 at 3.30 p.m.**	
12	Tender Opening Date and Time	Technical: **24.12.2025 at 03.31 p.m.** Financial: Upon approval of Technical Bid
13	Office Contact Number and e-mail ID	0821-2330452 / 2332477 pdjmysuru25@gmail.com & aadalitamysurucourt@gmail.com
14	Pre-bid Meeting Venue	17.12.2025 at 4.30 p.m.
15	Pre-bid Meeting Attendance compulsory	Yes. Certificate of Attendance issued by this office, to be uploaded at relevant column in KPP portal.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



With profound sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved father,
Thiru. **D.M. Rajan**
(S/o.Late V.S.K. Duraiswamy Nadar)
14th April 1936 - 16th December 2025
The mortal remains will be kept at his residence, No. 1, Adyar Club Gate Road, Chennai - 600028 from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 17th December.
Thereafter, the funeral cortege will proceed to the Besant Nagar Crematorium.
Deeply mourned by his Loving **Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law, Grandchildren** and the entire **VSKD family.**

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

KAUSALYA RAMASESHAN
2.12.1929 • 16.12.2025
Please pay respects at her residence from **10am-1:30pm, 17.12.2025.**
Lovingly remembered by her daughters
Arati Raman, Sita Sunder & Tara Ramaseshan, and their families.

DEATH

K GUNASEKARAN (73), Retired Senior Engineer - Printing, The Hindu, Madurai passed away on 16-12-2025. Address: 6/393, Mahalakshmi Nagar Main Road, K Pudur, Madurai- 625007 Contact: 9994992965

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

FULL CONTEXT

Inside a teacher's exhausting day as a booth level officer

Kusum, a Mathematics teacher, has traded her classroom for a grueling role as a BLO since November 4. She now spends her days in an office scrutinising hundreds of voter forms, often working late into the night

Mantasha Ahmed

Kusum (name changed on request of anonymity), a Mathematics teacher at Government HSS Dudhia, Indore, lives in the Saket area with her husband and mother-in-law. Ms. Kusum's husband has taken early retirement from a government job, she has no children and has lived for several years with chronic vertigo. Every morning, she rides her scooter for half an hour to reach her school in Dudhia, where she teaches Mathematics to Classes 10 and 12. But for the past month, her daily routine has completely changed, due to her role as a Booth Level Officer (BLO) at Booth No. 95, Saket.

Since November 4, when the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) work began across Madhya Pradesh, Ms. Kusum has not stepped into her school. Every morning, around 9-9.30 am, she used to leave for school and come back at 4:30 pm. Now, though she leaves at the same time every day, she stays in the booth till 10 or 11 at night, sometimes more.

I spent a day with her to see the conditions BLOs go through in a day.

Intense process: Ongoing verification of voter SIR Forms in Chennai on December 8. RAGU. R

The daily routine

As recorded on November 30, 2025, Ms. Kusum's day began at 6 am. She had *chai* with her mother-in-law, and cooked breakfast and lunch. She left home around 9:00 am and reached the Saket BLO office, set up inside an old Public Works Department (PWD) building, by 9:30 am, the latest allowed arrival time.

9:30-11 a.m: I joined her at 9:17 am at the building gate. When we entered the office together, most BLOs had arrived. This is not the first time I had visited the office; everyone is familiar with my presence. This time, however, they were sceptical and scared that the article in the media might take away their jobs.

Ms. Kusum and everyone's job is to scrutinise nearly 700 forms and check for incomplete details, missing photographs, unreachable phone numbers, and incorrect entries. She processes about 50 forms a day. She tells me Saket, being a posh area, is "the toughest zone" because residents ignore calls, don't open doors, block numbers, and often refuse to cooperate. She is busy with digitising the forms and getting the faulty ones right.

Mr. Chiranjeev told me that 80% of the work is done, and they are just "winding up" these last days. He said it is not as much pressure as it used to be when the BLOs had to go to colonies and distribute the forms. But the WhatsApp reporting cycle is relentless – from 8 am to the next day's 8 am, even during nights. He often stays up working till 1 am.

12-2 pm: By noon, BLOs stand in the sun in the corridor to escape the cold indoor rooms; it is a long corridor, and the rooms are old and chilly. Everyone has made a fixed place for themselves, with their papers and belongings scattered. Ms. Kusum's phone data pack had just reached its limit; the building has no WiFi. All the BLOs use their own internet data to digitise the forms. She asked a younger colleague to recharge her regular ₹299, which is a 1.5 GB daily plan.

2-4 pm: I noticed no one has had lunch yet, and thus I asked if there is a designated time slot given as a lunch break. There were five people in the room, excluding me; they all said there is no assigned time for lunch, and they eat lunch whenever it is convenient. I saw that Ms. Kusum had a tote bag with two water bottles, a three-box warm lunch, and a small *sev* packet.

The floor's five to six rooms were all busy, tables stacked with forms, phones, laptops, tablets. Around 3 pm, some BLOs stood in the sun chatting, while others were on calls or helping visitors with queries.

Ms. Kusum finally said she can take time to have lunch and talk to me. She took out a china cup, poured warm water, added her medicines, and joined the room's laughter. She added she needs to take these medicines all her life; if she skips them or sits too long in one place, her vertigo flares up, triggering nausea and spinning.

Meanwhile, a confused resident with his scanned papers in hand was speaking to a BLO in the outer corridor. I immediately went to see him, and he told me he is searching for his form; his wife's form was completed, but his own has not reached his house, as he had shifted from Durg, Chhattisgarh, to Indore in 2002. The case boiled down to sending the man back because his form "might have come to the old Durg office". Despite trying multiple databases, the BLOs could not find his EPIC number. He was eventually told to contact the Durg office. He left anxious, after 20 minutes of uncertainty.

The impact on day-to-day tasks

4-6 pm: We had lunch with fellow BLOs at another table. When asked about her schoolwork, Ms. Kusum said "*phase hue hein* (we are stuck)." She teaches Mathematics to Classes 10 and 12, and pre-boards are around the corner for Class 10. For one month, she has not gone to school or taught online. She thought she would make videos of herself explaining the lectures, like during COVID times, but she does not really get time for that. Her school principal had sent three applications from September to November to exempt Ms. Kusum from BLO duty, citing Class 10 board exams and her role as exam in-charge. The Election Commission acknowledged receipt but never responded. Finally, she was forced to join BLO duty on November 2.

She said her students still call her seeking help with syllabus doubts; she helps them over the phone, but she regrets missing regular classroom teaching. In her school, six teachers have been pulled into SIR work as BLOs or supervisors.

This is Ms. Kusum's first time as a BLO. She doesn't know what compensation, if any, they will receive; she simply has no choice but to do the duty.

6-8 pm: Around 6 pm, a well-dressed man wearing a kurta-pyjama and a Nehru jacket walked in. He turned out to be Nitish Jain, Indore BJP's *mandal adhyaksh* (board president) for the area. He interacted with the BLOs, asking about their issues, such as people not answering calls, and half-filled, pending forms to be collected from houses.

When introduced to me, he urged me to write about "Bangladeshi infiltrators." We spoke for about 40 minutes about the "infiltrator" and "migration" issues in the country. He avoided the core issues of overwork, tech and health strain, saying, "It's a matter of country interest... It's just a matter of a month." Mr. Jain, after one hour of being in the office, asked my name and learning that I have a Muslim name, abruptly ended the conversation and left, saying his father was hospitalised.

The sixth round of *chai* started around 7 pm. Some BLOs were again out, in fog this time; some were busy with papers; some were with people who had come regarding their forms; some were chatting or busy with the digitisation; others had gone to the Collector's office to submit the forms. By 8 pm, the sixth round of WhatsApp reports was also done. Mr. Chiranjeev avoided detailing the WhatsApp reporting chain but confirmed there's a mandatory report at 11 pm, which forces everyone to stay till late.

8-11 pm: Ms. Kusum had her second batch of medicines, one tablet and warm water with a few drops. She looked exhausted but kept working silently. I had spoken to almost everyone in the office by 8 pm, and they are all tired of the process that goes on all day.

I asked Ms. Kusum if she was planning to go home or have dinner. On the family front, she said her mother-in-law is unhappy with her long work hours since dinner gets delayed. Her husband, however, is supportive – he helps digitise forms at home, occasionally drives her to school, and now picks her up from the booth office. "If he didn't come on time, I would be here all night. The work just doesn't stop," she said. I saw most of the people having dinner at around 9-10 pm, wearing more woollens than before. Most had their boxes packed from home; a few did not eat. I am assuming a few even went out to a restaurant or their homes to have dinner, mostly male BLOs.

Everyone was sorting papers into bundles of filled, faulty, unfilled, problematic, and completed forms, tying them with a rubber band and handing them to Mr. Chiranjeev. "I even remember the names of everyone assigned to the BLOs," he said as he took the stacks.

By 10:30, nearly two hours had passed without Ms. Kusum and me speaking. I didn't want to interrupt her, and I sensed others were a bit cautious talking around me. When I finally asked if she would have dinner, she immediately stood and asked me to join her at another table where several women were seated. She reopened her lunch box. She saves some for dinner, so she doesn't have to carry extra. We ate till 11 pm, and Ms. Kusum then wound up her papers. Others were winding up too. Mr. Chiranjeev was tired and wanted to speak to me separately.

Around 11:30 pm, Mr. Chiranjeev, Ms. Kusum, and another male BLO stood outside the office, chatting as they wrapped up the day. Mr. Chiranjeev shared an honest thought, almost like feedback, that instead of assigning election-related duties to everyone, the government could deploy newly appointed staff on probation for tasks like electoral roll revision, to relieve people of the burden. We spoke for about 20-30 minutes. By 12 am, Mr. Chiranjeev had to send another update on the WhatsApp group. Ms. Kusum left in her vehicle, and I left soon after.

Mantasha Ahmed is an independent journalist based in Indore with five years of experience.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference between 'invent' and 'discover'? (M. Murugan)
When you invent something, you use your mind to create something new; something which had never existed before. For example, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. The Wright Brothers invented the aeroplane. If, on the other hand, you discover something, you find something that had already existed. You are not creating anything new, you are merely finding it. For example, Columbus discovered America. He did not invent it. The land existed even before Columbus was born and all that Columbus did was to find it. He discovered it. Similarly, Madame Curie discovered radium. In her case, she deliberately set out to discover radium. Sometimes, we discover things by accident as well. For example, while digging in the garden we may discover hidden treasure.

What is the difference between 'murder' and 'kill'? (Dr. N. S. Ramasubrahmanyam, Jannapura)
Both 'murder' and 'kill' result in the death of someone. When you 'murder' someone, it is done intentionally and is usually well thought out. A great deal of planning takes place. For example, Shobha was planning to murder her husband so that she could get his money. The politician is suspected to have murdered his rival. When you 'kill' someone, it can be accidental or deliberate. For example, you may run over a total stranger quite accidentally. You had no plans of running over the man, but it happened. In this case, you killed the man, you did not murder him. But you could plan to kill someone and carry out that plan. For example, the convict planned to kill the warden at 7.00 the next morning. So a 'kill', like 'murder', can be well thought out/planned. Unlike the word 'murder', the word 'kill' can be used with both animals and people. You can kill a cat or a man. You can murder a man, but not a lion. The word 'murder' cannot be used with animals. Animals can only kill, but people can kill, as well as, murder.

What is the meaning of 'to throw in the towel'? What is the origin of this expression? (Vidhya Raman, Chennai)
When you throw in the towel, you give up doing something because you realise that you cannot succeed. In other words, you accept defeat. For example, when Sekhar's experiment failed the tenth time, he realised it was time to throw in the towel. The dejected bowler said that he was going to quit playing the game. The coach, however, convinced him that it was too early to throw in the towel. This informal expression comes from the world of boxing. In boxing, two people are allowed to stop a fight – the referee and the fighter's manager. During a fight, if the manager finds that his man has no chance of winning and he is getting unnecessarily punished, the manager can end the fight by throwing the boxer's towel into the ring. This action of throwing the towel indicates that the manager is willing to accept defeat.

Published in The Hindu on January 5, 1999.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The final season (Volume 1) of 'Stranger Things' premiered on November 26. Volume 2 is slated for December 25. Here is a quiz on the show

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Here's an easy one. Who are the show's creators?

QUESTION 2
What is the name of the creature that abducts Will Byers in the first season?

QUESTION 3
What was the series originally called?

QUESTION 4
What is the name of the artist and her song that comes in season 4, featuring Max?

QUESTION 5
Hashtags grew in popularity after the series' release, such as "#ImWithBarb" and "#JusticeforBarb". Who was Barb?

QUESTION 6
What is the food product that Eleven liked?

Visual question:
Identify this monster from season 4. COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This British law was the immediate cause of the Boston Tea Party. **Ans: The Tea Act of 1773**
2. The Tea Act was seen as a threat because of this. **Ans: It implicitly affirmed the British Parliament's right to tax the colonies without their consent**
3. This organisation carried out the Boston Tea Party. **Ans: The Sons of Liberty**
4. The estimated monetary value of the destroyed tea in 1773. **Ans: £9,659 sterling**
5. These were the ships from which the tea was dumped during the Boston Tea Party. **Ans: The Dartmouth, the Eleanor, and the Beaver**
Visual: Identify this pioneering American filmmaker. **Ans: Edwin S. Porter**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Erfanally Oosmany| Tito Shiladitya| Mohan Lal Patel| Ambarin Aslam

Word of the day

Comport:
behave well or properly; behave in a certain manner; show a certain behaviour

Synonyms: acquit, act, bear, behave, carry, conduct, deport, do

Usage: *He comported himself with dignity.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/comportpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəm'pɔ:(ɹ)t/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Corporate India slow on assistive technology

Indian companies still have a long way to go in terms of embedding accessibility in their products, workplaces and cultures

Liffy Thomas

Visually challenged Nikhil Dattatraya Ghatge navigates the floors of Accenture's Koramangala office in Bengaluru confidently using his white cane, the Braille-embossed signboards guiding. At his desk, senior analyst Nikhil has a laptop integrated with JAWS and a tactile number pad that enables rapid key recognition, significantly improving his typing speed.

His colleague Madhu Shivappagowda, a speech and hearing-impaired senior analyst with over a decade's experience in the company, plays multiple roles including offering sign-language support to associates across India through video communication and guides new recruits in the use of devices such as bone-conduction headsets, hearing devices and glasses – tools that make them feel confident and included.

Assistive technology increases or improves the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. From height-adjustable desks, accessible meeting consoles, tactile identifiers, and low-reach storage to support employees with mobility or dexterity challenges, a host of software tools incorporated by companies such as SAP Labs India, Volvo Group India, Accenture, Microsoft and Amazon enhance the functional capabilities of professionals with a wide range of disabilities.

Stumbling blocks

However, corporate India still has a long way to go in terms of embedding accessibility in their products, workplaces and cultures. Studies point out that only one in 10 persons with disabilities have access to assistive technologies and products.

Cost of purchasing such devices, lack of awareness, insufficient training, procurement hurdles and integration difficulties are among the stumbling blocks to adoption of assistive technology at the workplace.

Akshita Sachdeva, co-founder, Trestle Labs/Kibo, an assistive technology company, says there are two main challenges when it comes to integrating more persons with disabilities in the workplace. "Many able-bodied employers are not aware of the potential of PwDs. And, most PwDs have little awareness about various assistive technologies that can help them participate more fully in the workplace and society," says Akshita.

Who pays for assistive technology?

While some employers pay for assistive technology, many expect employees to procure it on their own. Trestle Labs collaborates with philanthropic organisations to offer subsidies or fund part of the cost of its devices.

Photo used for representational purpose.

Accenture's medical insurance policy covers assistive devices for its employees and their dependents. The MNC has 45 accessibility centres across 22 countries where their workforce can test accessible technology and solutions to ensure they have the tools that best support their individual needs. For instance, Dhvani, its in-house platform integrated with all collaboration platforms, enables voice to text and text to voice conversion, and supports communication for people who have speech, hearing and language disabilities.

Shilpi Kapoor, Founder and CEO, BarrierBreak, an accessibility solutions company, says the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act mandates 4% reservation in employment for persons with disabilities in government establishments, but real inclusion requires proactive integration of accessibility at every level, from recruitment to training to daily operations.

Says Shilpi, "Job portals that are incompatible with screen readers and interviews lacking accommodations such as sign language interpreters would not help unlock the potential of a candidate. The entire ecosystem has to become accessible to enable people with disabilities to work to his/her full potential."

An initiative that imparts AI skills to women

EY Global Delivery Services, in collaboration with Hyderabad-based Nirmaan Organisation, has rolled out the Women in AI for Skills and Employability initiative (WAISE). The nation-wide programme is aimed at equipping 8,000 underserved women with industry-relevant AI and workplace readiness skills.

Of the 8000 women selected to be trained under the programme, 5,000 will be trained in foundational AI skills through the EY AI Skills Passport and an additional 3,000 participants will progress to advanced AI learning.

Training is currently being conducted in key Tier 1 cities including NCR, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai and Bengaluru at designated Centres of Excellence, and is also being extended to colleges in Tier 2 and Tier 3 regions through Nirmaan's Hub-and-Spoke outreach model, said a press release.

The initiative, which commenced in June 2025, will run through March 2026 and is being delivered through a blended model combining classroom instruction, virtual mentoring and industry interaction.

WAISE is designed for final-year undergraduate and postgraduate women in STEM, coming from families with an annual income below ₹ 8 lakh.

The programme offers free, structured learning that covers both foundational and advanced AI concepts, workplace readiness and leadership development, hybrid mentorship from EY GDS experts, as well as career guidance and job placement support.

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COUNCIL FOR THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS, NEW DELHI

Advt. No.: RC-04/12/2025

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), a National School Education Board in the country is looking for competent individuals for the following posts:

NAME OF POST	DISCIPLINE	INITIAL PLACE OF POSTING
• Education Officer	HR, Admin & Legal	Delhi / NCR
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• Assistant Officer	Information Technology	Delhi / NCR
• Assistant Officer	Academics & Training	Delhi / NCR
• Jr. Clerk Cum Typist	Clerical	Delhi / NCR & Hyderabad

Kindly visit the 'Notifications' section on **www.cisce.org** for detailed job description, eligibility criteria and link to submit the application online **OR** scan the given QR Code. **Last date to apply: - 6th January 2026**.

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Advt.No. 3(133)/97/Contract/RECTT/2025/15

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RESERVE BANK OF INDIA SERVICES BOARD

Advt. No. RBISB/BA/04/2025-26

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Applications are invited for Lateral Recruitment of Experts on Full-Time Contract Basis to the following posts in the Reserve Bank of India:

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	Department of Information Technology (DIT)	
1.	Data Scientist	2
2.	Data Engineer	2
3.	IT Security Expert	7
4.	IT System Administrator	5
5.	IT Project Administrator	3
6.	AI / ML Specialist	3
7.	IT - Cyber Security Analyst	5
8.	Network Administrator	3
	Premises Department	
9.	Project Manager	5
	Department of Supervision (DoS)	
10.	Market & Liquidity Risk Specialist	1
11.	IT - Cyber Security Analyst	13
12.	Operational Risk Analyst	2
13.	Analyst (Credit Risk)	2
14.	Analyst (Market Risk)	2
15.	Risk Analyst	5
16.	Accounts Specialist	5
17.	Risk Assessment & Data Analyst	2
18.	Policy Research Analyst	2
19.	Business & Financial Risk Analyst	6
20.	Data Engineer-I	1
21.	Data Engineer-II	1
22.	Data Analyst (Micro Data Analytics)	1
23.	Banking Domain Specialist	1
24.	Data Scientist (Data modelling)	2
25.	Bank Examiner (Liquidity Risk)	1
26.	Senior Bank Examiner (Liquidity Risk)	1
27.	Data Scientist (Advanced Analytics)	4
28.	Credit Risk Specialist	4
29.	Programme Coordinator (CoS)	2
	Total	**93**

2. For all other details such as eligibility criteria, reservation of vacancies, scheme of selection, submission of online applications and other instructions, please refer to the detailed advertisement to be published on the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in) on **December 17, 2025**. Candidates can apply for the aforementioned posts only by online mode through the Bank's website.

3. IMPORTANT DATES:

Website Link Open - For Online Registration of Application and Payment of Fees/Intimation Charges	**December 17, 2025 to January 06, 2026 (till 06:00 PM)***

** The Board reserves the right to make any changes in these dates.*
NOTE: Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement will be published only on the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in).

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Advt. No.- 22/25

NTPC is looking for **experienced professionals** in the area of **Combined Cycle Power Plant – O&M** on fixed term basis as per details given below:

Name of the Post	Vacancies	Required Qualification
Executive (Combined Cycle Power Plant - O&M)	15	Degree in Electrical/ Mechanical/Electronics/ Instrumentation Engineering

Visit our website **careers.ntpc.co.in** or careers section at **www.ntpc.co.in** for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, experience requirement, upper age limit, tenure of engagement, monthly remunerations, other terms & conditions and for applying. Only online mode of application will be accepted. **The online application portal will remain open for the period from 10.12.2025 to 24.12.2025**. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will only be published on our website.

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Preference may be accorded to those who have received national awards for teachers.
Salary, perquisites, and other benefits shall be as per the rules of the DPS Society. Higher emoluments will not be a constraint for an exceptionally deserving candidate.
Applications, along with a comprehensive resume and a passport-size photograph, should be addressed to: The Secretary, The Delhi Public School Society, F Block, East of Kailash, New Delhi – 110065, by 31/12/2025.
A copy must also be sent to the Pro-Vice Chairman, DPS Bhilai, at sesbsp@gmail.com by 31/12/2025.
Please mention "Application for the post of Principal, DPS Bhilai" on the top of the envelope.
Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.

KERALA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND BOARD
2nd Floor, Felicity Square Building, Statue, MG Road, Thiruvananthapuram-695 001.
Ph:0471-2780900, email: financeadmin@kiifb.org

Notification No.FA-2/4853/2023/KIIFB **dated 02/12/2025.**

KIIFB, an ideal organization for optimum professional development in all areas of large infrastructure development projects, invites applications for

Deputy Chief Project Examiner on deputation/Contract basis

Deputy Chief Project Examiner - Vacancy 1

- Equivalent status of Assistant Chief Technical Examiner in the Service of Government of Kerala.
- Shall be responsible for the conduct of inspections/quality audit in KIIFB funded projects, identifying new technologies, organizing engineering capacity building programmes for various stakeholders etc.

Qualification : Graduation in Civil Engineering with minimum 60% of marks from a reputed institution/university.
Desirable : Post-Graduation in Engineering/Management.
Experience : Post qualification work experience of not less than 15 years.
Age limit : Shall have minimum 5 years of services left in parent department/ organization while applying for the post on deputation/ Retired personnel must not have attained the age of 65 years as on 2/12/2025.
Pay : As in parent department for deployment under deputation /Pay for contract employment shall be decided as per industry standards. Officers working in the grade of superintending Engineer (PB-4-GP-8700)(6th CPC) or Executive Engineer (Civil) or equivalent having 3 years' experience in the grade with scale of pay not less PB-3-GP -6600/CPSU scale of E4/equivalent scale of State Governments other than Kerala, with a minimum post qualification professional experience of 15 years can apply on deputation basis. Applications on contract basis will also be considered from serving or retired Government professionals meeting the above eligibility criteria.

Last date of online submission of application - 31/12/2025

For more details and submitting applications online, please visit:
www.kiifb.org/careers

ENGG./PRODN./TECH.

कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार की श्रेणी – 1 मिनिरत्न कंपनी, पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
A Government of India Category-I, Miniratna Company, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

No. CSL/P&A/RECTT/CANSRU CONT/NOTIFICATION/10/SPO&PO/2025/3 Date: 16.12.2025

CSL AN SHIP REPAIR UNIT(CANSRU), SRI VIJAYA PURAM REQUIRES SENIOR PROJECT OFFICERS / PROJECT OFFICER ON CONTRACT BASIS

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), a listed premier Mini Ratna Schedule 'A' Company of Govt of India, invites **Online application** for Senior Project Officers/ Project Officer on Contract Basis for CSL AN Ship Repair Unit (CANSRU), Sri Vijaya Puram.

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	No. of Vacancies	Qualification & Experience
1	Senior Project Officer (Mechanical)	1 Post (UR)	**Qualifications:** Engineering graduates with 60% marks from a recognized university. **Experience:** Minimum of four years' post qualification experience in Ship Building Company or Ship Repair Company or Marine related Company or Port or Engineering Company or Government Company or Establishment or Semi-Government Company or Establishment.
2	Senior Project Officer (Electrical)	1 Post (UR)	
3	Senior Project Officer (Safety)	1 Post (UR)	**Qualifications:** a) **Degree in Safety Engineering** from a recognized university. b) **Degree in Engineering/ Technology, Physics, or Chemistry** from a recognized university. c) **Diploma in Engineering/ Technology** recognized by the State Board of Technical Education. **AND** d) **Degree, Diploma, or Certificate in Industrial Safety** recognized by the State Government is essential for qualifications b), c), and d). If the candidate has **one year of experience in safety**, the qualification in d) is not mandatory for b & c.
4	Project Officer (Safety)	1 Post (UR)	**Experience:** **For Senior Project Officer (Safety)** Engineering Degree holders shall have minimum four years' experience and other Degree / Diploma holders shall have minimum seven years' experience in a position of supervision or management in a Shipyard / Factory in either the production or the maintenance or the safety department. The candidate shall have experience in handling activities related to HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) in a Shipyard / Factory. **For Project Officer (Safety)** Engineering Degree holders shall have minimum two years' experience and other Degree / Diploma holders shall have minimum five years' experience in a position of supervision or management in a Shipyard / Factory in either the production or the maintenance or the safety department. The candidate shall have experience in handling activities related to HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) in a Shipyard / Factory.

For more details on age, reservation, educational qualification, experience, remuneration etc., please read the vacancy notification on CSL website **www.cochinshipyard.in (Career page → CANSRU (ANDAMAN)). Last date of receipt of online application is 31.12. 2025.**

"Hindi version of detailed advertisement is published on the website (www.cochinshipyard.in) of CSL."

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (HR & LD)

State to regulate pigeon feeding in public places

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department V. Lakshminath has written to the Urban Development Department (UDD) to initiate steps to regulate and prohibit the feeding of pigeons in public places.

The Health Department has requested the UDD to issue directions to the Greater Bengaluru Authority and all municipal corporations to enforce specific guidelines.

The Health Department has asked the Urban Development Department to issue norms on the feeding of pigeons. FILE PHOTO

These include a blanket prohibition on feeding pigeons in areas that cause nuisance or health hazards. Feeding may be permitted only in designated areas. The feeding should be under controlled conditions, for limited hours, and with maintenance responsibilities assigned to charitable organisations or NGOs.

Local authority officers have been authorised to issue on-the-spot warnings, impose fines, or initiate prosecution for violations.

The note also directs corporations to conduct public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about health risks, regulatory provisions, penalties, and alternative "humane" methods of bird conservation.

The letter dated December 16 highlights the growing risks posed by excessive pigeon droppings and feathers in densely populated areas as the reason behind the move. The letter highlights medical experts' caution that prolonged exposure to pigeon droppings and feathers can lead to respiratory illnesses such as hypersensitivity pneumonitis and other lung diseases.

The department cautioned that such conditions may cause severe, and sometimes, irreversible lung damage, particularly among vulnerable groups. It also refers to similar regulatory measures undertaken by the Mumbai civic body following directions from the Bombay High Court. The department has outlined the legal provisions that empower the corporation to curb the "issue". These include Sections 270, 271 and 272 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which deal with public nuisance and acts likely to spread diseases dangerous to life.

In addition, powers under the Greater Bengaluru Authority Act, 2025, and the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, enable civic bodies to take measures to prevent the spread of dangerous diseases and ensure public sanitation, according to the letter.

Vishwas Gowda wins gold

BENGALURU: Powerlifter Vishwas Gowda P. won three gold medals in the 90 kg category at the WRPF World Championship 2025, held in Moscow, Russia, from December 4 to 7.

According to the Pratham International Group of Institutions, Vishwas topped the podium in Full Powerlifting, Bench Press and Push Pull events, bringing international recognition to Indian powerlifting with his dominant showing at the prestigious championship.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17	
RISE 06:35	SET 17:57
RISE 04:08	SET 15:44
THURSDAY, DEC. 18	
RISE 06:35	SET 17:57
RISE 05:00	SET 16:29
FRIDAY, DEC. 19	
RISE 06:36	SET 17:58
RISE 05:52	SET 17:19

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	28	19
Bengaluru	24	16

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-2717/03/04/2024/ 35382 Dated :- 11.12.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No- P&C/EST/E-36/2025-26

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Documents (Including GST)	Priod of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	"Design, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 20 KLD Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) on Turnkey basis at PPC in Kimilo, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha."	Rs.25,000.00	Rs.7,080/- (Online)	03 (Three) Calendar Months	Experienced agencies/ Firms/ Companies or "B" & "C" Class Contractors of PWD & Equivalent Class of other Departments.

The Bid document comprising of detailed eligibility criteria, scope of the work, land details, Instruction to bidders etc. can be downloaded from the web-site **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** from **5PM of Dt. 17.12.2025 to 5 PM of Dt. 24.12.2025.**
Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tenderodisha.gov.in as well as IDCO website www.idco.in.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C)

CAD-2712: OIPR-14003/11/0263/2526

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-2717/03/04/2024/ 35370 Dated :- 11.12.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No- P&C/EST/E-37/2025-26

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Documents (Including GST)	Priod of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	"Design, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 20 KLD Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) on Turnkey basis at PPC in Srikona, Balasore, Odisha."	Rs.25,000.00	Rs.7,080/- (Online)	03 (Three) Calendar Months	Experienced agencies/ Firms/ Companies or "B" & "C" Class Contractors of PWD & Equivalent Class of other Departments.

The Bid document comprising of detailed eligibility criteria, scope of the work, land details, Instruction to bidders etc. can be downloaded from the web-site **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** from **5PM of Dt. 17.12.2025 to 5 PM of Dt. 24.12.2025.**
Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tenderodisha.gov.inas well as IDCO website www.idco.in.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C)

CAD-2714: OIPR-14003/11/0265/2526

ODISHA STATE MEDICAL CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
(ASSURING QUALITY, SAVING LIVES)
Phone No.: (0674) 2380608, Website: www.osmcl.nic.in , E-mail: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in

Notification No. 11024/EQP-OSMCL/2025 Date : 12.12.2025

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for "setting up Skill Laboratory (Supply, Installation & Commissioning of various PG Mannequins including associated Turnkey Works) at SCBMCH-Cuttack, MKCGMCH-Berhampur, VIMSAR-Burla & PGIMER Capital Hospital-BBSR"

EOI No. OSMCL/Setting Skill Lab /2025-26/01

Expression of Interest (EOI) in prescribed sealed format are invited by the Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd (OSMCL) from Prospective Bidders for **"setting up Skill Laboratory (Supply, Installation & Commissioning of various PG Mannequins including associated Turnkey Works) at SCBMCH-Cuttack, MKCGMCH-Berhampur, VIMSAR-Burla & PGIMER Capital Hospital-BBSR"**. The same can be downloaded from the "Tenders" section of OSMCL's official website, i.e. **http://osmcl.nic.in** free of cost.

The Sealed EoIs must reach the below mentioned address by not later than **5:00 PM of 30th December, 2025 through Speed Post or Registered Post or Courier Only -**

Managing Director, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd.
Convent Square, Odisha, Bhubaneswar-751007
Ph. No.: (0674) 2380660/2380950
Website: www.osmcl.nic.in; E-Mail: proc.osmcl.od@od.gov.in

The Sealed EoIs will be **opened on 06th January, 2026 5.30 PM** in the Tender Hall of OSMCL, Bhubaneswar.

GM-Operation (Equipment), Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd.

Regd. Office: Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., Convent Square, Bhubaneswar–751007, Odisha

CAD-2719 OIPR-10112/11/0042/2526

By E-Mail/e-Despatch E_Mail ID:- serwcbaripada@gmail.com ; Ph.No. 06792-261343 / 261344
Gangraj, Baripada

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Plan Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender-Road N.C.B. No.402 for 2025-26
Letter No. 5505 / Date : 27.11.2025 //

1. Name of the Work : Road Work in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 25-26
2. Total No. of Work : 07 Nos (Seven)
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.322.50 Lakhs & Rs.1575.00 Lakhs (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada. Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	Road On-line N.C.B. No. 402	Dt.18.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.03.01.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.02.01.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.05.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Sd/- A.K.Naik, Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.

O-1795 : OIPR-25130/11/0070/2526

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
Office of the Senior Geologist, Uttara Kannada, Karwar-581306
Phone: 08382-227395
No. DMG/UKD/GR-01/2025-26 Date:15-12-2025

e-AUCTION PUBLICATION

Invites the e-applications for auction of Disposal Of Export Quality Granite Blocks (Ornamental Stone) Stocked At Karwar Port Area, Bythakhola Village in Uttara Kannada district. Interested persons/ companies/firm/agencies can apply through KPP portal Auction No: **DMG/2025-26/AUCTION45** e-Auction documents and annexures can be downloaded from the KPP portal website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for uploading the Annexures and submission of e-application is **30-12-2025**. Live bidding is scheduled from: **06-01-2026 to 09-01-2026 at 10:30 AM to 17:30 PM** Application and Bids shall be submitted through KPP portal only.

Sd/-, Senior Geologist/e-Auction Inviting Authority
Department of Mines & Geology, Karwar

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/836/25-26 dt.15.12.25

HIMACHAL PRADESH POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A State Government Undertaking)
CIN : U40101HP2006SGC030591
Regd. Office: Himfed Building, BCS, New Shimla-171009.
Ph. 0177-2670633 Fax.: 0177-2671589 Website: www.hppcl.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS
(International Competitive Bidding) (E-Tender Mode only)

Online International Competitive Bids (ICB) are hereby invited through open tendering mode by the undersigned, for and on behalf of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL), from experienced/ reputed Bidders for:

Name of work : **Construction of Renukaji Dam Project located in District Sirmaur of Himachal Pradesh, India**
Sub-head : Construction of 03 (three) numbers 9.50 m finished diameter circular, concrete lined Diversion Tunnels including excavation, rock support, concreting etc. and hydromechanical works complete in all respects for Renukaji Dam Project (2x20 MW) located in District Sirmaur of Himachal Pradesh, India.
Last date & time for Submission of Bids : 16.01.2026 upto 11:00 Hrs
Opening of Technical Bids : 16.01.2026 at 15:00 Hrs
Cost of Bidding Document : INR 50,000/- (Fifty thousand only) (Including GST)

For detailed tender notification, please visit
https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPPCL & www.hppcl.in
General Manager (Civil Contracts)

BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 5600009
Ph: 080-22341230/35, E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No.BMICAPA/CLU-02/81/2025-26/2159 Dated: 16.12.2025

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri V.Ramesh Kumar S/o Late V.Chandrashekar Naidu and Smt Hemalatha.V W/o V.Ramesh Kumar and GPA Holder Sri V.Ramesh Kumar S/o Late V.Chandrashekar Naidu on behalf of Smt Hemalatha. V have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Commercial"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No:321/2 extent 03 Acre-04 Guntas (Including 0Acre-04 Guntas 'A' Kharab) and Sy.No:321/3 extent 02 Acre-00Guntas totally measuring 05 Acre-04Guntas of Kodiyalakarenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the above said land for Commercial Purpose the General publics will get job opportunities.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be job opportunity for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial development in the above said land.
4) By developing the Commercial development Government will get income in the form of various Taxes.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4484/CCL/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
Website: www.gowribidanurtown.gov.in
Email: itstaff_ulb_gouribidanur@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂ: ನಸಗೌ/ಆಶಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–03/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳಿಂದ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು,ಈ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **www.gouribidanurcity.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬಹುದು. (1) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.12.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.12.2025ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
	2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅನುದಾನ	
1	ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಮಿನಿಟಿಪ್ಪರ್ ವಾಹನ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವುದು	9.00
2	ಮಿನಿ ಎಕ್ಸವೇಟರ್ ವಾಹನ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವುದು	31.00
3	ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಟ್ರೈಲರ್ ವಾಹನ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವುದು	11.00

ಸಹಿ/–
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:300/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2025–26

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

E - TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Itemwise tenders are invited through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION

I. No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3456 Dated: 10.12.2025 for "Retrofitting of 24 Nos BAPCON controllers by latest version of microprocessor based controller & providing PC Based Integrated Operating System in any one of unit-5 to 7 ESP system." **EMD :** Rs. 1,40,740/-. **Last date for submission of bid (both cover 1&2) along with documents to meet qualification criteria is** 26/12/2025 up to 16.30 hrs.

II. No KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3781 Dated: 11.12.2025 "Supply. Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 20TR Package AC for Unit-8 VFD Room at RTPS. **EMD :** Rs. 16,500/-. **Last date for submission of bid (both cover 1&2) along with documents to meet qualification criteria is** 26/12/2025 up to 17.00 hrs.

Further details can be had from Executive Engineer [LT-2], Raichur Thermal Power Station. Karnataka Power Corporation Limited, Shaktinagar-584170. Phone: 9449598846, 8277502712.

BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION

No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3756 DATE: 10/12/2025 for Unit-1,2-(2X500MW) & U3(1X700MW) Boiler Routine/Preventive/ Breakdown Maintenance works of Boiler & Auxiliary for a period of One year. **AMOUNT PUT TO TENDER EXCLUDING GST):** Rs. 233 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 3.50 Lakhs.

Further details can be had from the office of Executive Engineer (BM) BTPS, KPCL, Kudithini-583153, Bellary Dist. Contact cell no: 9480830316.

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಆನೇಕಲ್
ಆನೇಕಲ್– 562106, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–27841111, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_anekal@yahoo.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.anekaltown.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪು.ಕಾ.ಆ/ತಾಂಶಾ/ಜೆ.ಇ/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ /17/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ– ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(Through GOK KPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

ಆನೇಕಲ್ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ–1.0 ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು KPP-Portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು KPP-Portal websiteನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
01	DMA/2025-26/ OW/WORK_INDENT52458	**218.00**	2,77,000/-

(1)ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **16.01.2026 16:30** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.01.2026 ಸಮಯ 17:00** ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.01.2026** ಸಮಯ **ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಘಂಟೆ** ನಂತರ (4) ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದ ಲಭ್ಯತೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಬಿಲ್‌ನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (5) All conditions as per bid document ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್
ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/4461/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ/2025–26

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, Second Floor, Looplance, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560009
Ph: 080-223451230/35, E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/68/2025-26/2158 Date: 16.12.2025

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Bairaiah S/o Nanjamma. Smt Rathnamma W/o Late Muddaiah, Sri Ravi S/o Nanjamma and Smt K.Manjula W/o Channappa have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" purpose pertaining to Sy.No:83/18 extent of 0Acre-12 Guntas. Sy.No:83/22 extent of Acre-12 Guntas. Sy.No: 83/23 extent of 0 Acre-12 Guntas and Sy.No:83/25 extent of 01Acre-08 Guntas totally measuring 02 Acre-04 Guntas of Bananduru Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) By developing the layout in the above said lands, the poor and middle Class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for Local labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4) By planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4479/SSC/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO),
LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION,
80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru. Ph No: 080-25037203/080-25037214.

Date: 16.12.2025

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Site development works over DG System location area at LPSC(B) Campus, Tumakuru. NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2035/C/MI/029/ 2025-26 DATED: 16.12.2025	₹ 14.77 Lakhs	₹ 29,540/-	45 days
2	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 5T EOT Crane at PMSD pressure test facility, LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru. NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2036/MECH/MI/030/ 2025-26 DATED: 16.12.2025	₹ 22.53 Lakhs	₹ 45,060/-	04 Months

Sale Period: **From 16.12.2025 to 24.12.2025**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD , LPSC (B)

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/AE/ TO/2892/2025-26 Dt: 12.12.2025(Call-3)	Rs.68,28,759/- / Rs.1,36,600/-	26-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	29-12-2025 after 4.00 p.m.
2.		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/ TO/2893/2025-26 Dt: 12.12.2025(Call-3)	Rs.60,67,140/- / Rs.1,21,400/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1).

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

3.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/ TO/PB/4173/2025-26 Dt: 15.12.2025	Rs.7,40,808/- / Rs.18,600/-	26-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	29-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-2).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4481/25-26

Mahadevapura chokes under delayed flyovers and infrastructure projects

Commuters have to navigate unfinished infrastructure across key stretches such as Dommasandra, Varthur Kodi, and Panathur

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Mahadevapura, home to some of the city's largest IT hubs and fastest-expanding residential clusters, is choking under traffic bottlenecks that were flagged nearly a decade ago but remain unresolved.

A series of flyovers, elevated corridors and grade separators planned for east Bengaluru by multiple State road agencies, including the Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), have either stalled midway or moved at a crawl, leaving commuters to navigate unfinished infrastructure across key stretches such as Dommasandra, Varthur Kodi, and Panathur.

Almost a decade ago, KRDCL unveiled plans for an elevated corridor along the Varthur stretch, along with grade separators at key junctions including Dommasandra, Varthur Kodi, and a railway underbridge at Kadugodi. At the time, these projects were projected as long-term solutions to east Bengaluru's growing congestion, driven by an explosion of housing layouts, schools, technology parks and commercial establishments. However, many of these works have since slipped into limbo, with deadlines repeatedly revised but rarely met.

In the Mahadevapura zone alone, multiple infrastructure projects, including Carmelaram railway overbridge (RoB) at the Panathur junction, are currently stuck at various stages of execution. Despite continuous follow-ups by citizen groups and local representatives, progress has remained slow owing to a combination of delayed payments to contractors, land acquisition hurdles, and repeated design revisions.

The Dommasandra flyover project was initiated in 2020 and has been stalled for several years. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

"The prolonged delays have had a cascading impact on daily life. We spend hours navigating short stretches, dust pollution from stalled construction sites has worsened air quality in the area, and narrow, damaged roads have become accident-prone. While agencies continue to cite technical and administrative challenges, the lack of coordinated planning has turned critical corridors into permanent choke points for us, the residents," Shwetha M., a resident of Varthur, said.

Dommasandra flyover

One of the most visible symbols of stalled infrastructure is the Dommasandra flyover on Sarjapur Road, a crucial arterial stretch connecting Dommasandra Circle to Carmelaram and Kadugodi. Proposed nearly five years ago to decongest the corridor, the flyover was intended to address intense traffic caused by a high concentration of schools, apartment complexes, and commercial establishments, while also improving connectivity towards Electronics City and other employment hubs.

Construction on the flyover began several years ago but was repeatedly halted owing to difficulties in acquiring private land and problems with contractors. For long stretches, the project site lay idle, with partially erected structures rusting and construction debris contributing to dust pollution along the busy road. Although work resumed in late 2023 after land acquisition issues were close to being resolved, the flyover remains incomplete as of December 2025.

The impact on commuters has been severe. "Motorists often lose 20 to 30 minutes on a stretch that should otherwise take only a few minutes. School buses are frequently delayed, even businesses now have started complaining about the disruptions due to poor accessibility. Peak-hour congestion routinely spills into interior residential roads, worsening traffic chaos across the area," Akash Kamath, a resident of the same area said.

Varthur Kodi

Further, the widening of the Varthur-Gunjur Road and the construction of the elevated corridor at Varthur Kodi continue to progress at a crawl. Officials acknowledge that at least two more years of disruption for motorists and residents is expected and that land acquisition has emerged as the single biggest setback, pushing the project's completion timeline to 2027.

Approved in 2016-17, the project is being executed by KRDCL and involves a 1.92-km, 60-foot-wide elevated stretch from Varthur Lake Kodi to Vinayaka Theatre. The plan includes widening the existing 30-metre road to nearly 100 metres, extending the mini-flyover at Varthur Kodi, integrating a double-decker structure and accommodating railway alignment requirements.

Officials, however, blame that these features have added to the project's complexity and significantly prolonged execution timelines.

On the ground, progress remains limited, with drainage works and selective demolitions accounting for most of the visible activity. These pending acquisitions have slowed the entire corridor, creating uncertainty for thousands of commuters who rely heavily on State Highway-35 as their primary connector.

KRDCL officials, however, said that work has marginally improved compared to the previous year and further point to progress achieved through Transferable Development Rights (TDR) issued by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA).

Panathur-Balagere

Panathur and Balagere have recently seen a measure of relief with the opening of a widened S-Cross junction and a railway underpass that has been expanded into two vents. The upgraded infrastructure initially improved traffic flow, particularly for commuters travelling towards the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and nearby tech-parks.

However, residents say traffic has already begun building up again, especially during morning peak hours. Many argued that the intervention would have been far more effective had it been implemented when originally proposed and that it is inadequate to cope with today's density and future growth.

(This is the third in a multi-part series)

Dommasandra flyover

Proposed:	Status:	Reason for delay:	Impact:
2020	Incomplete as of December 2025	Land acquisition issues, contractor problems	Peak-hour congestion spills into residential roads

Varthur Kodi elevated corridor

Approved:	Length and width:	Features:
2016–17, Execution: KRDCL	1.92 km, 60 feet	Road widening, mini-flyover, double-decker structure, railway alignment integration

Pending property acquisitions: 19

Key challenges across East Bengaluru

Delayed contractor payments	Land acquisition hurdles	Repeated design revisions	Lack of coordinated planning among agencies

'Conduct survey for new road to reduce congestion near Bellandur lake'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) M. Maheshwar Rao directed officials to conduct a detailed survey for the construction of a road within the Bellandur lake buffer zone to ease traffic congestion in the area.

During an inspection of locations in the East and South City Corporation limits on Tuesday, Mr. Rao instructed authorities to assess the feasibility of constructing the road, examining the land parcels in the buffer zone and to submit a comprehensive report.

The proposed road, approximately 1 km long and 24 metres wide, will include provisions for public movement and recreational use, and is expected to substantially reduce traffic along the Bellandur lake bund road.

The GBA chief said that steps have been initiated for the construction of a 1.4 km-long buffer road as an alternative to Wind Tunnel Road. The land for this project belongs to HAL, whose authorities have given consent to the road. Tenders have been invited, and government approval is being sought, with officials instructed to commence work at the earliest.

Mr. Rao also inspected the ongoing construction of the 2.6 km buffer road connecting Ejipura Inner Ring Road to Sarjapur Outer Ring Road.

The proposed road is expected to substantially reduce traffic along the Bellandur lake bund road. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (December 17, Wedensday), the following articles are available:

- The future of governance in post-Maoist India **newsth.live/maoistgovtexp**
- Inhalable microplastics, a hidden toxin worsening Indian cities' air **newsth.live/hiddentoxin**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Court quashes transfer of MLA's brother to KMCRI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed the State government's order transferring Keshav Abbayya, brother of Hubballi-Dharwad East MLA Prasad Abbayya, to Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute (KMCRI), Hubballi, permanently from Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Gadag, based on a letter by his MLA-brother to Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil.

The court also quashed the appointment of Dr. Keshav as Head of the Department (HoD) of Dentistry as well as the senior list which treated him as the senior-most professor in that department.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Suneel G. Patil who was the senior-most faculty in the KMCRI's Department of Dentistry.

Blatant violation

"The permanent placement of Dr. Keshav as professor of KMCRI being in blatant violation of binding statutory guidelines and indelibly tainted by political influence, cannot be sustained in law," the court said.

When the petitioner was statutorily entitled for promotion, "importing an outsider into the lone available post in the department, effectively divested the petitioner of both his seniority, a statutory right, and his legitimate consideration of promotion, a fundamental right," the court observed, while pointing out that posting of Dr. Keshav on transfer to KMCRI is contrary to the norms of the institute as well as the National Medical Commission.

"The petitioner having already completed the requisite qualifying service as early as at the time when the new post of Professor in the Department of Dentistry was created, was fully eligible and available for promotion. Yet, Dr. Keshav, who has fraternal relationship with the sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly representing Hubballi, appears to have been ushered into KMCRI through the channels of influence, notwithstanding the oppositions raised by those affected," the court observed. The court also noted that KMCRI is situated in the constituency represented by Dr. Keshav's MLA-brother.

3.01 lakh cases settled in Lok Adalat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The national-level Lok Adalat organised by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) on December 13 witnessed settlement of 3.01 lakh litigations pending in various courts across the State, including one between former cricketer Sadanand Vishwanath and his tenants.

Addressing a press conference, Justice Anu Sivarama, judge of the High Court of Karnataka and the executive chairperson of KSLSA, said that 1.04 crore pre-litigation cases were also settled.

Mr. Vishwanath, a former India wicket-keeper, had settled the suit, initiated by his tenants, D. Chandra Shekar and others, in 2024, challenging action initiated by him to evict them. The dispute was settled as the prime tenant agreed to vacate the premises on receiving the lease rental deposit amount of ₹35 lakh from Mr. Vishwanath.

A 92-year-old woman put an end to her litigation with her son, who joined the Lok Adalat in Ramanagara through videoconference from London, and this was among the 2,144 litigations involving senior citizens that were settled.

The Lok Adalat also witnessed the reunion of 367 couples.

The resolution of 13,517 cheque dishonour cases, 4,660 motor vehicle accident claims, and cases of execution of awards of land acquisition, accident claim compensation, disputes before the real estate regulatory authority, have resulted in payment of around ₹3,100 crore stuck in the legal proceedings.

High Court orders regularisation of service of man who retired in 2015

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered regularisation of service of a 68-year-old man, who retired 10 years ago pending his plea for regularisation of service at a gram panchayat in Sirsi taluk of Uttara Kannada district, after serving as an attender-cum-bill collector on contract basis for 21 years since 1994.

"The right to consideration for service does not evaporate on attainment of age of superannuation as the petitioner retired as daily wage contract employee while his claim for regularisation subsisted," the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Venkatarama Hegde, resident of Kuluve village in Sirsi taluk.

The service of the petitioner should stand regularised with effect from the date on which he had completed 10 years in service from the date of initial appointment on contract basis that is on January 9, 2004, the court said.

The petitioner was not regularised in service despite the recommendation made by the gram panchayat and a direction issued by the court in 2014.

Citing the Supreme Court's major judgments, right from the 2006 case of State of Karnataka vs. Umadevi and Dharam Singh vs. State of UP, 2015, on regularisation of service, the High Court said that the "employees regardless of the nomenclature attached to their engagement, whether temporary, contractual or daily wage or even on consolidated pay, once they have completed 10 years of service and were otherwise qualified to hold the post, are entitled to consideration for regularisation."

The court also said that except salary arrears, the petitioner would be entitled to all benefits taking the entire service, between 1994 and 2015, when he retired, as service for the purpose of such determination, including for all retirement benefits.

Digital podiatry clinic inaugurated for early detection of diabetic foot risks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A digital podiatry clinic aimed at the early detection and prevention of diabetic foot complications was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) here on Tuesday.

The Digital Podiatry Clinic (D-PoC), established by AI-powered health technology firm StrideAide, seeks to strengthen technology-enabled preventive foot care for people with diabetes and those at high risk of developing the condition.

The clinic integrates multiple diagnostic devices to assess key parameters such as plantar pressure, neuropathy and vascular insufficiency. The data is consolidated through StrideAide's proprietary software platform, which uses artificial intelligence-driven algorithms for risk stratification and automated clinical reporting. The aim is to identify risks early and prevent foot ulcers, infections and amputations through standardised screening and structured digital workflows.

A digital podiatry clinic aimed at early detection and prevention of diabetic foot complications was inaugurated at IISc Health Centre in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Each D-PoC unit can screen 30 to 40 patients a day and has the potential to assess over 10,000 people with diabetes annually at a district hospital level, enabling scalable deployment across secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities.

"The Digital Podiatry Clinic represents a shift from reactive treatment to preventive care in diabetic foot management," said Pavan Belehalli, founder-director of StrideAide.

Dr. Belehalli, who is also associate professor and head of the Department of Podiatry at the State-run Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology and Research (KIER), said the model combines clinical insight with smart engineering and AI-driven analytics to enable early risk identification at the point of care.

Plug-and-play model

The D-PoC follows a plug-and-play deployment model, allowing rapid adoption across diverse healthcare institutions. Plans are also under way to integrate StrideGPT, an AI-driven question-and-answer support system for clinicians and patients, to strengthen preventive care and reduce the socioeconomic burden of diabetic foot complications.

Sanjay Sharma, co-founder of StrideAide, said diabetic foot problems remain among the most underestimated contributors to disability and healthcare costs. Reliable screening tools and structured data, he said, could enable timely intervention and significantly reduce avoidable amputations.

IISc has been a key partner in the development of the clinic, contributing expertise in smart engineering, predictive analytics and clinical validation through its faculty.

UG medical: Another stray vacancy round

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has decided to conduct another stray vacancy round on December 17 for the remaining 26 seats to medical degree courses.

Twenty-two seats are pending in MVJ Medical College, Hoskote, and four in MRMC Medical College, Kalaburagi. Interested candidates have been allowed to participate in this round by paying a demand draft (DD) of the prescribed course fee, said H. Prasanna, Executive Director, KEA. Seats are available in both the colleges under the 'others' quota and interested candidates should appear at the KEA office by noon on December 17 along with the prescribed fee DD (₹40,11,950 for MVJ College, ₹39,11,950 for MRMC College) and original documents. Thereafter, they will be allowed to register their preferences/choices from noon to 1 p.m.

Aland vote theft case sparks heated exchange in Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The vote fraud case in the Aland constituency, currently probed by a Special Investigation Team (SIT), sparked a heated exchange between the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP members in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

B.R. Patil, MLA for Aland, sought to raise the issue while pointing out that SIT has filed a chargesheet in this regard, naming former BJP MLA Subhash Guttedar and his son as the prime accused.

Even as Speaker U.T. Khader assured him of providing permission to discuss the issue later, Mr. Patil maintained that the chargesheet had now shown who was at fault. "We must know how many BJP members have won through vote *chori* (vote theft) before 2023 elections," he remarked.

This ruffled the feathers of BJP members who launched a counter attack. BJP member V. Sunil Kumar said the party was ready to debate the issue.

"But lets wait till the SIT files at least an interim report so that we will have some material to discuss," he said.

Joining Mr. Patil in the attack, Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge wondered where else the members could speak on vote *chori* if not in the Legislative Assembly. The BJP members accused the Congress of making "false allegations".

The heated exchange of words ended with the Speaker making it clear that he would allow Mr. Patil to raise the issue again.

'Acted on violation of Kannada language Act by two schools'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government has taken action against two schools in Bengaluru for violating the Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015.

In response to a question on Kannada teaching in ICSE, CBSE, IB and IGCSE schools by N. Ravi Kumar of the BJP in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa said that officials served notices on The Bengaluru International School at Dommasandra in Anekal taluk of Bengaluru South district and on Gear Innovative School at Dodda Kannahalli in Bengaluru South district, and imposed a penalty as per the Act.

The Minister said that the government had framed rules under the Act mandating teaching Kannada as either the first or second language in private schools. The schools had to give an acknowledgement on obeying the rule at the time of seeking renewal of recognition.

I will continue as CM as long as high command wants, says Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister asserts that the Congress govt. will not only complete the full term, but also return to form the government by winning the 2028 Assembly elections

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking at the Winter Session of Assembly at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The leadership issue in the ruling Congress figured in the Assembly session on Tuesday, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stating on the floor of the Assembly that he would continue as Chief Minister until the high command made a decision. He emphasised that Congress regime will continue for the full five-year term "as the people of the State have blessed it".

"I am the Chief Minister. I want to clearly say that we have a high command and we will abide by whatever it decides. Secondly, people of the State have blessed us to rule for five years, and we will continue to rule for five years," the Chief Minister asserted, while replying to Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok who raised the issue during Question Hour.

'We' and 'I'

Taunting the Chief Minister for his diplomatic stand, BJP member S. Suresh Kumar said, "So far the Chief Minister would say that he would continue in his post for five years. But now he has switched to the plural by replacing 'I' with 'We'," he said, adding that it reminds him of St. Kanaka Dasa's famous lines on shedding egoism and selfishness.

Responding to this, the Chief Minister asked the BJP not to compare him with the great saint-poet. Continuing to emphasise the choice of plural, he said, "We are running the government and hence I am using the plural".

He asserted that the Congress government would not only complete the full term, but also return to form the government by winning the 2028 Assembly polls.

'BJP not blessed'

Mr. Siddaramaiah launched a counterattack on the BJP by remarking that it had formed the government twice despite not getting the people's mandate. "People of the State have never blessed the BJP, and they are not going to do it in the future either. In fact, your numbers in the Assembly is going to further dwindle in the next polls," he told the BJP members.

When BJP members continued the taunt and asked whether the Congress high command had "blessed" him just as the people of the State, the Chief Minister reiterated, "We will abide by whatever the high command decides".

Irritated by the continued questioning, he said, "All the 140 Congress MLAs are with us, and they would not get provoked however much ever your try".

How it all began

The issue unfolded after Congress member H.D. Ranganath, identified with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's camp, alleged during Question Hour that there was a disparity in allocation of funds by the Co-operation Department (earlier headed by K.N. Rajanna, who has been at loggerheads with the Deputy Chief Minister) to his constituency when compared with Madhugiri (represented by Mr. Rajanna). Soon after, the Chief Minister assured him of setting right anomalies, if any, by next year. Mr. Ashok remarked in a lighter vein that, "Dr. Ranganath is anguished, and he is performing pooja to ensure that Mr. Shivakumar becomes Chief Minister".

Responding to this, Mr. Siddaramaiah told him to desist from stoking the fire. Hinting that Mr. Siddaramaiah was evolving strategies to protect his chair, Mr. Ashok said he was planning to write a book titled "Siddaramaiah's strategies" on the lines of "Chanakya's strategies".

INBRIEF

Never called for all-party delegation, says Ashok

The Leader of Opposition R. Ashok accused the government of not calling them even once to be part of all-party delegations to Delhi.

"It has been over two and a half years since the government came to existence. Has the government called me even once to go to Delhi?" he asked. This response came when Congress member Lakshman Savadi was speaking on all party delegations to press to the Centre for revision of MSP for sugar, increase in ethanol allocation and other issues related to sugarcane cultivation.

Release document on action on North Karnataka: Rajanna

Former Minister K.N. Rajanna, who was dropped for his comments that embarrassed the Congress, urged the government to release a document that would show action taken on promises made for North Karnataka in the last two years.

"Unless a report is released on promises made and implemented by the government in the last two years, discussion on North Karnataka would not help."

Finance Department nod sought for PSI recruitment

Home Minister G. Parameshwara told the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday that the Home Department had requested the Finance Department to give clearance to recruit 600 police sub-inspectors.

Replying to BJP member Channabasappa, who expressed concern over the shortage of police sub-inspectors in Shivamogga, Mr. Parameshwara said recently the government recruited 947 PSIs and they were already undergoing training. In addition to this, the Home Department has sought clearance from the Finance Department to recruit an additional 600 PSIs, he noted.

He also assured the member of examining his demand for providing a Police Commissionerate to Shivamogga.

CM submits supplementary estimates for ₹6,279.87 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has stated that the supplementary estimates include ₹75 crore for the Higher Education Department, and the amount is for grants-in-aid pensions for State universities.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Tuesday, laid the second supplementary estimates (second instalment) of ₹6,279.87 crore in the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi.

The supplementary estimates include ₹6,256.41 crore of voted expenditure, meant for various schemes, and ₹23.46 crore of charged expenditure. The total outgo from the consolidated fund is ₹5,661.76 crore. Of that, ₹2,240.32 crore is covered by the central assistance, the Chief Minister said in his introductory note.

The amount would be sourced from the revenue receipts and, if necessary, through the "reprioritisation of expenditure and probable savings in expenditure and borrowings," he stated. The estimates include ₹629.65 crore for the Social Welfare Department, ₹1,935.96 crore for the Revenue Department, ₹127.9 crore for Education Department, ₹338.35 crore for the Forest Department, ₹410 crore for Commerce and Industries, and ₹433 crore for the Public Works Department, among others. The supplementary estimates include ₹75 crore for the Higher Education Department, and the amount is for grants-in-aid pensions for universities in the State. The State universities have been facing difficulties paying the pensions to their employees.

The estimates include ₹9.12 crore that the Home Department would utilise towards infrastructure development in the Naxal-affected areas.

Forest Minister attributes human-animal conflict to increase in animal population

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre attributed the increase in the human-animal conflict in recent years to the increase in animal population.

Answering a question by D. Thimmaiah in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, Mr. Khandre said after the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, came into effect, the hunting of animals was stopped. Gradually the number of animals increased.

Karnataka stands first in the country considering the elephant population (6,395) and second in terms of tiger population. As per the tiger census conducted in 2022, the tiger population was 563 in the State. "But, when analysed again after the recent incidents of human-tiger conflicts, we understood that the number has gone up to 600 in the State. In the year 1972, the number of tigers in Bandipur was only 12. During our last census the number was 150 and now it has gone to 200," he stated. The Bandipur National Park is spread over 1,000 sq. km. "I had asked the officers to study the carrying capacity of the park. According to an estimation, a tiger needs an area of 11 to 12 sq. km. Going by the land available, the park could accommodate around 100 to 110 tigers. But the current population is around 200, initiating territorial fights among them. We have also studied the population of mammals like deer that tigers require to survive. There is no shortage of such animals," he said.

The Minister said every year on an average 40-50 human deaths are reported in human-animal conflicts.

Division-wise Tiger population

Nagarahole Tiger Reserve	140
Bandipur Tiger Reserve	150
BRT Tiger Reserve	37
Bhadra Tiger Reserve	28
Kali Tiger Reserve	17
Other divisions	191
Total	563

(As captured in camera trap)

'Noise pollution' by *azaan* triggers debate in Council

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Eshwar B. Khandre

Alleging that *azaan*, the call to prayer in mosques, causes 'noise pollution', members of the BJP urged the government of Karnataka to take action as per the Supreme Court's directive, during Question Hour in the Legislative Council in Belagavi on Tuesday.

BJP member D.S. Arun, who raised the issue, stated that he and his family members had been disturbed by the regular *azaan* from a mosque close to his place in Shivamogga. "The volume of loudspeakers in mosques has gone up in recent days. The Congress government has no guts to take action against people using loudspeakers at mosques," he remarked, triggering a heated debate.

C.T. Ravi, Bharathi Shetty, N. Ravi Kumar, and Keshava Prasad of the BJP demanded that the government implement the rule strictly to avoid noise pollution. They alleged that the government, which banned the use of DJ music during the Ganesha festival, had allowed loudspeakers in mosques, which operate throughout the year.

The members in the treasury benches accused the BJP members of politicising the issue.

Same rules for all

Minister for Environment and Forests Eshwar Khandre stated that the rules are the same for all. The government of Karnataka had constituted district-level committees to test noise levels at religious places where loudspeakers were being used. The committee would include ACP or the DySP, the Executive Engineer of the urban local body, and a representative from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. The committee would take action whenever there is a complaint, the Minister said.

The Minister said that his department had issued an order insisting that loudspeakers should be used only between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rule, 2000, specified the maximum decibel levels with respect to sensitive areas, residential areas, commercial areas, and industrial areas. Violation of the rule would attract punishment.

"We need to spread awareness among the public about noise pollution," he added.

Assembly adopts 12 Bills, including Land Revenue Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted 12 Bills, including the Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to remove anomalies in the classification and maintenance of land records in Kodagu district, and the Karnataka Rent (Amendment) Bill.

Piloting the Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda noted that Kodagu had continued to operate its own traditional system of records even after 1964 when the Karnataka Land Revenue Act had come into effect.

Under this pre-Independence system, those who served the British in their army had been appointed as agents (Pattedars) to collect revenue on behalf of the British regime. However, the problem started in 2000 when Karnataka moved towards of digitisation of land documents through the Bhoomi project, as there was no parity between the records under the Bhoomi and the land records in Kodagu, he noted.

Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, seeks to remove anomalies in classification and maintenance of land records in Kodagu district

However, the then Deputy Commissioners of Kodagu had continued with the old system by issuing notifications at their level which created in additional columns in RTC that had entries for pattedars. This triggered legal issues over ownership of land as there was a need to clarify whether the land owner had absolute ownership or if it belonged to pattedars.

Hence, the government was now amending this legislation to provide for empowering tahsildars of Kodagu district to hold hearings and make necessary corrections in the land records to bring them in conformity with present system.

The Karnataka Rent (Amendment) Bill would seek to achieve the principle of "Minimum Government Maximum Governance" by decriminalisation of minor offences and rationalisation of monetary penalties as envisaged in the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act 2023 (Central Act 18 of 2023).

The Malnad Area Development Board (Amendment) Bill, The Bayaluseeme Development Board (Amendment) Bill, Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, The Chandraguthi Shree Renukamba Kshetra Development Authority Bill, and Sri Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Kshetra Development Authority (Amendment) Bill were also adopted by the Assembly.

Kerala HC issues interim stay on ED notice to KIIFB

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The ED had initiated proceedings under the Foreign Exchange Management Act

The Kerala High Court has issued a three-month interim stay on a notice issued by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) to the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) on the utilisation of funds raised through masala bonds for the board.

A Bench of Justice V.G. Arun issued the interim stay on further proceedings on the matter on Tuesday in a plea, which was filed by KIIFB challenging a notice issued against the board by the ED in connection with the usage of funds generated through masala bonds for infra development in the State. The ED had initiated proceedings under the Foreign Exchange Management Act.

KIIFB had earlier this month approached the High Court seeking to quash the notice. Stating that the ED often issued such notices during election time, the board contended that there was no hassle in spending the funds to purchase land for infra development and that everything was being being done in adherence to Reserve Bank of India norms.

The ED opposed the plea, stating that it was not maintainable since it had only issued notice seeking explanation on the issue.

Kerala to screen all IFFK movies barred by Centre

CM says decision reflects autocratic tendencies of Sangh Parivar regime; Culture Minister slams 'undemocratic approach'; I&B Ministry later gives nod to screen 5 of the 19 films barred earlier

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Film enthusiasts protest at the IFFK venue in Thiruvanathapuram against I&B Ministry's decision. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A day after the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) denied censor clearance for the screening of several films at the 30th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), the State government on Tuesday said all films will be screened at the event as per schedule.

Among the movies denied permission are Palestinian films such as *Palestine 36* and *All That's Left of You*, as well as Soviet-era classic *Battleship Potemkin*.

Santosh, which portrays police brutality and casteism, also did not receive clearance. Also on the list were *Timbuktu* and *Bamako*, directed by Abderrahmane Sissako, who is being honoured with the IFFK Lifetime Achievement Award this year.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in a statement that the Centre's decision to deny permission to the films was unacceptable.

"The censorship directed at the IFFK is a direct reflection of the autocratic tendencies of the Sangh Parivar regime, which suppresses diverse voices and creative expressions in the country. Enlightened Kerala will not give in to such censorship. All films that have been denied permission will be screened at the festival," said Mr. Vijayan.

Minister for Cultural Affairs Saji Cherian, in a statement, lashed out at the Centre for adopting "an undemocratic approach towards the State's progressive art and cultural tradition." "Such an undemocratic approach that destroys the tradition and progressive nature of the festival cannot be accepted," he said.

"The government will continue to take an uncompromising stand against attacks on artistic expressions," he said.

He said all the 19 films that were denied Central approval were recognised worldwide and were well received by film buffs. "The right of the delegates to watch these films cannot be denied. These were published in the festival schedule as well as the festival book that have been widely circulated," he said.

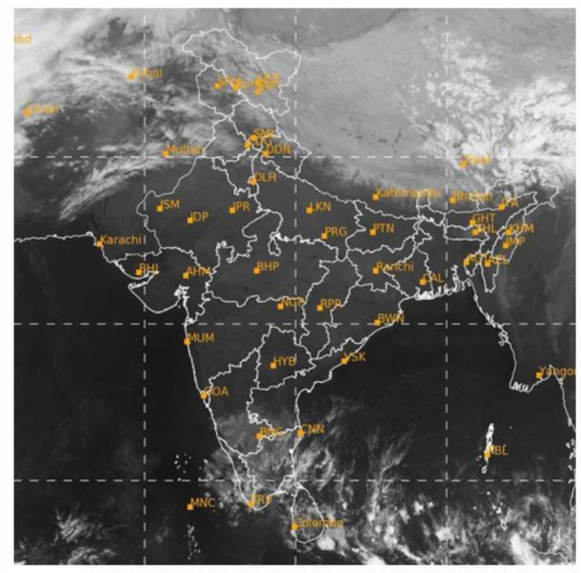
The main festival venue at Tagore Theatre witnessed protests by the Democratic Youth Federation of India on Monday night.

Five get clearance

Early on Tuesday, the I&B Ministry issued clearance to five of the 19 films barred earlier. The movies are *Beef*, *Eagles of The Republic*, *Heart of The Wolf*, *Yes*, and *Once Upon A Time In Gaza*.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Dense fog likely at isolated pockets over Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.5	14.0	Kozhikode	—	33.3	20.6
Ahmedabad	—	28.6	15.4	Kurnool	—	31.2	17.0
Aizawl	—	26.7	11.4	Lucknow	—	20.1	10.4
Allahabad	—	25.4	9.1	Madurai	—	30.0	22.2
Bengaluru	—	24.4	16.4	Mangaluru	—	31.5	19.6
Bhopal	—	26.6	4.8	Mumbai	—	33.1	17.0
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	14.2	Mysuru	—	28.0	9.9
Chandigarh	—	24.5	8.2	New Delhi	—	24.9	8.3
Chennai	12.3	27.5	24.6	Patna	—	23.4	14.8
Coimbatore	—	29.4	19.4	Port Blair	—	30.8	25.7
Dehradun	—	26.0	6.7	Puducherry	7	26.2	23.0
Gangtok	—	17.5	7.5	Pune	—	30.2	14.4
Goa	—	33.5	19.8	Raipur	—	29.0	10.6
Guwahati	—	26.4	12.5	Ranchi	—	24.2	9.6
Hubballi	—	29.0	17.0	Shillong	—	17.8	7.4
Hyderabad	—	28.4	13.9	Shimla	—	23.6	10.4
Imphal	—	23.6	11.3	Srinagar	—	14.1	-1.8
Jaipur	—	27.6	11.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	30.9	21.1
Kochi	—	30.8	22.0	Tiruchi	2	29.1	23.6
Kohima	—	15.8	6.0	Vijayawada	—	30.0	18.5
Kolkata	—	26.2	16.0	Visakhapatnam	—	28.8	20.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.60	..75	41	... 152	...165	
Bengaluru	.12	..32	58	... 123	...124	
Chennai	.11	9	16	... 144	...109	
Delhi	.21	127	64	... 376	...297	
Hyderabad	...8	..42	44	... 137	...126	
Kolkata	...6	..21	24	... 269	...137	
Lucknow	...8	..28	32	... 185	...266	
Mumbai	.32	104	34	 97	...112	
Pune	...8	102	85	... 251	...208	
Visakhapatnam	.14	..47	18	... 178	...132	

Yesterday
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 421 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 9

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SC to hear plea against HC guidelines to clinical establishments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to entertain a petition against a Kerala High Court direction to clinical establishments to prominently display a list of the services offered and package rates.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice to the State government on a petition challenging various provisions of the Kerala Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2018.

Kerala Private Hospitals Association and Hussain Koya Thangal, represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and Zulfiker Ali P.S., had moved the apex court against the High Court's November 26 decision.

The Bench directed authorities not to take any coercive steps against the members of the association till the next date of hearing, February 3.

It said the members of the association would continue getting themselves registered under Section 19 of the Act. The court also asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to assist the court in the case.

Issuing a slew of guidelines, the High Court had said each clinical establishment shall prominently display, in Malayalam as well as in English.

The guidelines were to be displayed at the reception or admission desk and on its official website a list of the services offered and the baseline and package rates for commonly performed procedures, with a note that unforeseen complications or additional procedures shall be itemised.

Besides other guidelines, it had directed clinical establishments to maintain a grievance desk or helpline and register every complaint with a unique reference number, issuing an acknowledgement immediately through text messages, WhatsApp or in the physical form.

Deploy AI to prevent theft: A.P. High Court to TTD

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Justice Gannamaneni Ramakrishna Prasad of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday expressed the opinion that the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) should mechanise the process of segregating currency notes, coins, and other offerings made to the deity, and counting/assessing their value ('Parakamani'), while observing that there had been multiple instances of theft earlier.

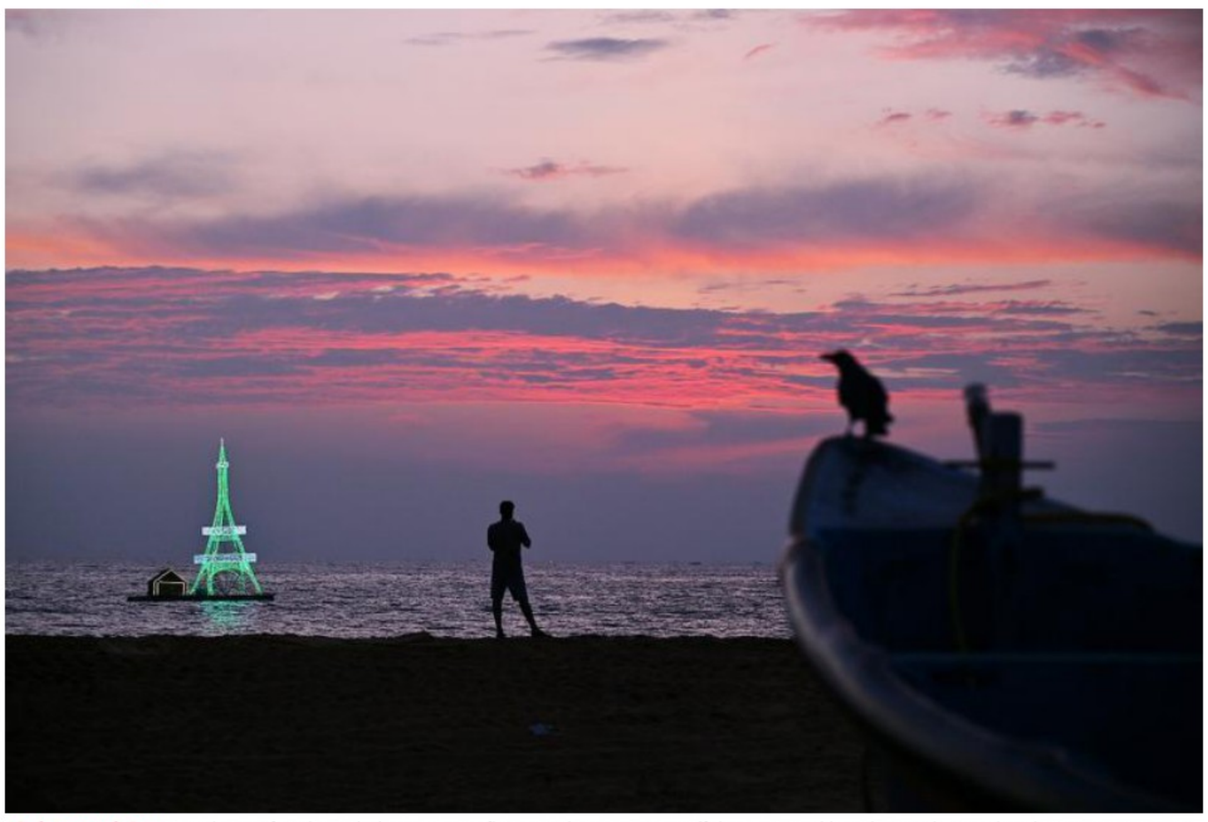
Justice Prasad also suggested that the CCTV system be equipped with AI for better monitoring. Later, he posted the matter to December 19.

Hearing a batch of writ petitions related to the Parakamani theft case, Justice Prasad noted that AI would bring down human intervention, thereby reducing the scope for theft/misappropriation of money. The TTD should secure the offerings and protect the sentiments of the people, he said.

The TTD must refrain from disturbing what the *Agama Shastra* said about counting, but since it had moved out of the temple premises and, consequently, the *Agama Shastra* might not come in the way. The handling of offerings should be changed from manual to automatic, the judge said, adding that it would be good to stop outsourcing this.

The judge was emphatic in his observations, and called for suggestions on how to prevent irregularities in the conduct of 'Parakamani', senior counsel Unnam Muralidhar Rao told *The Hindu*.

Floating decoration


Christmas sights: Residents of Kadinamkulam set up a floating Christmas tree off the Marianad beach to welcome the Christmas season in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Vijayanagar palike bazaar shops to be allotted through e-auction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), on Tuesday instructed officials to allot shops at the palike bazaar in Vijayanagar through e-auction, in accordance with the prescribed rules.

Mr. Rao said that 79 shops will be available in the air-conditioned bazaar and directed officials to immediately initiate the e-auction to ensure transparent allotment as per norms.

The Chief Commissioner also asked officials to strictly regulate unauthorised commercial activities around the bazaar and ordered the appointment of a separate Revenue Officer exclusively to monitor the premises. Mr. Rao reviewed healthcare infrastructure projects under the Brand Bengaluru project.

The newly inaugurated air-conditioned Vijaynagar palike bazar in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He noted that the existing Srirampura Maternity Hospital is currently a single-storey old building with 30 beds, handling four to six deliveries daily and catering to 200-300 out-patients every day. He directed that the old structure be demolished and replaced with a four-storey building with 50 beds and instructed officials to commence work immediately.

He further instructed officials to immediately begin works to upgrade Moodalapalya Maternity Hospital. The hospital currently has 12 beds and is set to be upgraded to 30 beds.

At the MC Layout multi-speciality hospital in Govindarajanagar, officials were directed to make the facility fully functional and submit a comprehensive report on the required number of doctors and staff, necessary medical equipment and measures to ensure optimal utilisation.

ISRO releases RESPOND Basket, invites proposals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the RESPOND Basket 2025, comprising research problem statements aligned with ISRO's current and future mission requirements.

On Tuesday, ISRO Chairperson V. Narayanan released the RESPOND Basket 2025 at the inauguration of the ISRO-Academia Day.

Collaborative research

In his inaugural address, Dr. Narayanan underscored the vital role of academia in contributing innovative ideas, advanced research and skilled human resources to India's expanding space programme, and highlighted the impact of the RESPOND programme in addressing complex technological challenges through collaborative research.

It comprises the most important research problems identified by ISRO

As part of the programme, ISRO scientists delivered detailed technical talks on the research topics listed in the RESPOND Basket 2025, providing academic participants with deeper insights into mission-driven requirements, expected outcomes, and potential areas of collaboration.

The RESPOND Basket comprises the most urgent and important research problems identified by ISRO and Department of Space Centre/Units on the basis of ISRO's upcoming programmatic R&D requirements.

The RESPOND Basket 2025 invites submission of research proposals from various premier universities, and other recognised academic and R&D institutions in areas relevant to ISRO's upcoming missions and national priorities. The last date for submission is January 31, 2026.

Study affirms Kerala's rich butterfly diversity in the Western Ghats region

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala hosts the highest butterfly diversity among all Indian States along the Western Ghats, with 328 species documented, including 41 species endemic to the Western Ghats, according to a new monograph published in *ENTOMON*, an open access quarterly journal by the Association for Advancement of Entomology.

Paris peacock swallowtail. DR. KALESH SADASIVAN

The researchers of the study 'The Butterflies (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera) of Kerala: Status and Distribution' have reported that the Western Ghats support 337 butterfly species and Kerala accounts for nearly the entire diversity. The butterfly fauna of the State spans six families, led by Nymphalidae (97 species), Lycaenidae (96 species), and Hesperiidae (82 species), followed by Papilionidae, Pieridae and Riodinidae.

The study, undertaken by a team of researchers led by Kalesh Sadasivan, has also documented 36 migratory butterfly species to highlight the State's role as a key corridor for seasonal butterfly movements. Notably, 22 species recorded from Kerala are included in the IUCN Red List, though most fall under the 'Least Concern' category, while two are listed as 'Near Threatened.'

The monograph highlights that 70 butterfly species found in Kerala are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Of these, only four have the highest level of protection under Schedule I.

One of the most significant contributions of the work is the extensive larval host plant checklist which documents over 1,800 feeding records, including over 350 new field observations. Covering nearly 800 plant species, the list represents one of the largest region-specific compilations in India.

Stepping stone

India's nuclear governance needs regulatory independence

Nuclear power contributed only around 3% of the electricity generated in India in 2024-25. The government has set a target to install 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047, including from at least five indigenous small modular reactors by 2033. In this picture, the SHANTI Bill proposes to change who can legally build and operate civil nuclear facilities. By allowing the Centre to permit nuclear energy activities through licences to government entities, joint ventures and "any other company" (subject to conditions), SHANTI indicates that the intended new class of operators is domestic private capital rather than foreign plant owners. India being able to meet its 100 GW target will indeed require large capital mobilisation, and allowing licensed non-government entities expands the roster of entities that can share the construction risk. SHANTI also seeks to keep the most sensitive fuel cycles in state control while holding room for private participation in plant delivery and parts of the supply chain, reducing scope of commercial entry to those segments most relevant to scale power generation and keeping functions sensitive to nuclear proliferation with the state. The Bill could also mitigate the legal ambiguity new entrants face by putting safety, enforcement and dispute resolution and the terms of participation in the same statute. This could also reduce transaction costs for developers and shrink site approval and commissioning timelines.

However, the Bill's liability and governance provisions warrant caution. The maximum operator liability for a nuclear incident is ₹3,000 crore. The Centre is liable for nuclear damage beyond the operator's cap and can also assume full liability for a non-government installation if in the public interest. These choices make investment risk easier to price but also ask whether the capped operator amount is adequate for victims and for environmental remediation. Second, SHANTI requires operators to maintain insurance or other financial security, but exempts the Centre's nuclear installations, rendering clear public accounting very important. It also allows operator recourse only when expressly provided in a written contract or when an incident is due to an act or an omission with the intent to cause nuclear damage. This makes supplier accountability depend largely on what the operator secures by contract, which means how much recourse the operator has against suppliers can vary across projects. Finally, India's nuclear governance needs to address its regulator's independence. While SHANTI creates a statutory framework, it also vests significant influence in appointments with the Centre and the Atomic Energy Commission. This is still not conducive to increasing public trust and may also deter investor confidence.

Blatant foul

U.S.'s militarised approach to Venezuela is a violation of international law

In line with a series of hostile moves, the U.S. seized a Venezuelan oil tanker, *Skipper*, on December 10. Venezuela called it the latest example of Washington's "piracy, kidnapping, theft of private property, extrajudicial executions in international waters". The tanker was part of Venezuela's ongoing efforts to support Cuba through subsidised oil shipments, with proceeds from resale to China providing Havana crucial revenue. For decades, Venezuela has sent oil to Cuba at highly subsidised prices, with Cuba sending doctors and security professionals to Venezuela. The seizure represents a troubling escalation in U.S. policy toward Venezuela under President Nicolás Maduro. It is also clear that the U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, a major hawk on U.S. foreign policy towards Cuba, has sought to disrupt one of the island nation's economic lifelines. The overt moves to engineer regime change in Venezuela and other brazen acts mark a new low in U.S. foreign policy, recalling the interventionist era of its Monroe Doctrine in Latin America.

Before the seizure of *Skipper*, the U.S. had also conducted strikes in Caribbean waters on boats that Washington alleged were used by drug traffickers. These attacks appear to constitute acts of war carried out without clear legislative authorisation. The Trump administration insists that the operations are part of its "war on drugs", but has not presented credible evidence to link Mr. Maduro to cartels or to drug trafficking networks. To be clear, Mr. Maduro is credibly accused of manipulating the results in the 2024 presidential elections and his government also bears substantial responsibility for Venezuela's crippling economic collapse. But, acknowledging its failures does nothing to justify the Trump administration's hostile approach. Be it the disproportionate economic sanctions that hurt Venezuela's ability to sell its crude oil, covert actions to take down the Maduro presidency, the ill-conceived recognition of an opposition politician, Juan Guaidó, as President, or the extrajudicial killings in the Caribbean and the seizure of the oil tanker, these actions are tantamount to flouting the rules of the international order that the U.S. purports to uphold. The parallel with U.S. policy towards Cuba since the Cuban Revolution in the 1950s is instructive. The U.S. has maintained an embargo on trade to force regime change in the island nation. The world must condemn these moves, even while maintaining the critique of the Venezuelan regime. A principled defence of international law that applies equally to all actors, including the rich and the powerful, is an imperative so that the world does not descend further into anarchy.

The Trump NSS, Europe's existential crisis

Priyanjali Malik

writes on nuclear politics and security

Hope is not a strategy. For most of this year, European leaders have hoped that the Trump Administration has not actually meant its President's oscillating support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), its Vice-President's berating his European hosts in Munich over their liberal values and immigration policies, President Donald Trump's tirade against migration at the United Nations, and of course his mercurial support for Ukraine. The hope was that, all things considered, America would ultimately stand with Europe.

The Trump Administration's National Security Strategy – a 33 page document that spends much time congratulating the President for saving America from apparently terminal decline as it charts an unapologetically MAGA-esque America-first mercantilist position – appears not to notice Africa, Australia and New Zealand. It sweeps by Asia as it focuses strongly on perceived trade imbalances with China and lands squarely on a defence of the 'Western Hemisphere' according to American interests while lamenting the decline of Europe. Europe is a problem, not an ally.

The stand on Europe

In 'Promoting European Greatness', the NSS warns of Europe's 'civilizational erasure', precipitated by the European Union (EU)'s policies on migration and freedom of speech, 'the suppression of political opposition', and the 'loss of national identities and self-confidence'. In case there was any doubt about which migrants were unwelcome, the NSS declares that if Europe continues on its present trajectory, 'within a few decades ... certain NATO members will become majority non-European.' The U.S. will help Europe regain its 'former greatness' by choosing 'patriotic European parties' to promote what this administration views as 'genuine democracy' and 'unapologetic celebrations of European nations' individual character and history'. To most Europeans, at best this reads as a meddling in the internal politics of sovereign nations, and at worst as regime change.

Europe, the NSS states, needs to stand on its own feet, assume 'primary responsibility for its own defense' and re-establish 'strategic stability with Russia'. NATO 'cannot be a perpetually expanding alliance', a warning of course to Ukraine, but also an interesting glossing over of Sweden and Finland's accession to the alliance after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. In this document, the threat is not Russia and its invasion of a sovereign nation, but Europe's cultural decay. The tramp of the jackboots of 1930s Europe echos with every mention of civilisational decline.

> With the Trump Administration's National Security Strategy making it clear that American support to Europe is now faint, it remains to be seen how Europe responds

Of course, an administration's national security strategy is not policy, but a guide to its thinking. They can and have been over-ridden by events, most notably George H.W. Bush's 1990 NSS, which was overtaken by the fall of the Berlin Wall, German reunification and the first Gulf War. Observers could chart the evolution of the administration's thinking in the two subsequent iterations of 1991 and 1993.

As a high-level document, the NSS often provides the lens through which to interpret an administration's foreign policy goals and is assumed to set the tone for the administration's national defence strategy, its Quadrennial Defense Review and national military strategy. Mr. Trump's famously mercurial nature might caution against viewing it as declared policy. However, given that this is a Congress-mandated document, it is more than just a rhetorical exercise: while it should not be taken literally, it should be taken seriously.

What Europe's response could be

As the dust settles, Europe now faces three options in responding: it can ignore the NSS and hope that it will go away; its leaders can dial up their flattery of Mr. Trump in the hope that he will change his mind on Europe; or Europe can face up to the prospect that Mr. Trump's America is not a reliable ally and that they will need to fend for themselves.

Europe tried a mixture of the first two strategies after J.D. Vance's outburst at the Munich Security Conference. After some tepid talk of needing to pull together to see off Russian President Vladimir Putin's 'imperialist' ambitions in trying to 'rewrite history' or the need for Europe to wean itself off U.S. dependence, Europe doubled down on doing whatever it would take to keep America in NATO and Europe. Britain flattered Mr. Trump with an invitation for an unprecedented second state visit. Germany's Friedrich Merz forgot about his observations of February this year as Chancellor-in-waiting that his 'absolute priority will be to strengthen Europe ... so that ... we can really achieve independence from the USA'.

Germany has since abandoned half-explored plans of developing European capabilities and ordered more American military kit, which is dependent on American intelligence to work. NATO's Hague Summit of June this year will be remembered as much for European states agreeing to raise their military spending to 5% of GDP as for Secretary-General Mark Rutte's calling Mr. Trump 'Daddy.'

The third option will not be easy. Europe has never defended itself as an entity and there is no concept of integrated European defence. Even limited projects of joint development of military kit tend not to get very far, as the stalled Franco-German project on sixth generation fighter jets demonstrates. If the U.S. pulls American troops out of Europe – as this administration has periodically hinted it might do – then Europe will have a serious manpower problem that experiments in 'voluntary' conscription will not even begin to address. Then there is the question of nuclear deterrence and Britain's uneasy post-Brexit relationship with the EU and Europe.

The state of the world order

How Europe responds will have implications beyond the continent. Mr. Trump's NSS, with its attack on transnational institutions (that he insists 'undermine political liberty and sovereignty'), its dismantling of the post-war trading order in favour of a mercantilist America-first policy; and the signalling of a U.S. retreat into its own 'Hemisphere' (however that might be defined, and with the implication that China and Russia are free to carve up the rest of the world as long as they do not impinge on America's trading footprint) have profound implications for the rest of the world. The post-war world order that America helped shape and uphold is imperfect and crumbling. The power imbalances at the United Nations and the Bretton Woods Institutions that help anchor expectations of peace, security, development and trade reflect an outdated world order. But, however imperfect this rules-based system might be, it is still a bulwark against a descent into a Hobbesian free-for-all, where might makes right.

The debate about this National Security Strategy is, therefore, not about a document that might shed light on an administration's thinking. It is about whether Europe chooses to defend a rules-based liberal order or defers to a President whose transactional and racist view of the world will have consequences that stretch far beyond his borders.

The three revolutions reshaping American power

Anil Raman

is Research Fellow, Takshashila Institution and a retired brigadier

When United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio proposed restructuring the G-20 into an elite "inner caucus" of powerful states, it should have dominated the week's geopolitical news. It signalled a major reordering of global economic governance, shifting rule-making to a narrower group and weakening emerging economies. Yet, the proposal barely registered. It was immediately eclipsed by the release of the 2025 U.S. National Security Strategy (NSS), that embodied the same underlying ideological shift. Days later, the Heritage Foundation, the intellectual core of U.S. President Donald Trump's MAGA project, issued its own blueprint, Restoring America's Promise: 2025-26.

The alignment between the G-20 restructuring, the NSS, and Heritage 2026 reveals three simultaneous revolutions in American statecraft: a transformation of political morality, a recasting of foreign policy, and a restructuring of global economic governance. The common thread is the institutionalisation of exclusion and the acceptance of unequal burdens as policy design rather than error. In this sense, cruelty functions as an analytical term, capturing a system in which harm is anticipated, normalised, and strategically deployed.

Shrinking of civic space

The first revolution is internal. Mr. Trump's political project dismantled the traditional moral architecture of American public life. Norms of restraint, institutional deference and civic responsibility gave way to an ethos where transgression signalled authenticity and the erosion of shame became a political asset. The NSS integrates this shift into formal doctrine by treating internal cultural cohesion, ideological alignment and demographic stability as national security requirements.

The Heritage document demands bureaucratic remaking, ideological vetting, and mass personnel turnover. The NSS echoes this through sovereign autonomy, institutional suspicion and domestic culture as security treating independent institutions not as correctives but as obstacles to political will.

Cruelty here takes the form of permissive indifference: hardship from administrative purges, narrowing civic space, or punitive regulatory change is not acknowledged as collateral damage but folded seamlessly into the architecture of governance.

> The central thread around the internal, external and economic policies is an 'architecture of cruelty', where harm is anticipated, normalised, and strategically deployed

Foreign policy around conditionality

The second revolution is external. The U.S. traditionally relied on predictable commitments and institutional stability. Even Mr. Trump's first-term disruptions occurred within recognisable boundaries. The 2025 NSS departs sharply from this tradition.

Alliances are reframed as conditional transactional contracts with obligations justified continuously. The Western Hemisphere displaces Europe and the Indo-Pacific as the primary theatre, reviving the Monroe Doctrine. Migration, a domestic concern, is elevated into the central security threat, while institutions once amplifying American power are described as constraints on sovereignty.

The Heritage document provides the ideological framework. It frames multilateral bodies as infringements of sovereignty, border control as geopolitics, and allied compliance as contingent on ideological alignment, not shared interest.

The result is neither isolationism nor traditional realism. It is selective dominance: assertion where leverage is high, retreat where obligations are costly, and judging partnerships by conformity not capability. The structural effect is fragile alliances, revisionist adversaries and a fragmentation of global order.

The third revolution is economic. Mr. Rubio's G-20 proposal is not an administrative adjustment but the formalisation of a tiered global economy, an architecture of privileged rule-makers and peripheral rule-takers. Decision-making on debt relief, trade standards and climate finance will consolidate within a narrower circle of states with the capacity to shape outcomes.

The NSS fits precisely within this trajectory. Its emphasis on reshoring, tariff leverage and industrial sovereignty promoted toward a hemispheric economic model centred on North America. Heritage 2026 expands on the logic: globalisation is treated as a strategic vulnerability and multilateral economic systems as threats to national autonomy.

The consequences will be felt disproportionately by countries with limited negotiation power. Debt restructuring will become more conditional, supply chain diversification more politically selective, and access to global capital more closely tied to geopolitical alignment. The predictable hardship that follows, from inflationary pressures to disrupted export markets, will fall on global and domestic workers.

Cruelty here is systemic: unequal distribution of economic pain is treated as a mechanism for stabilising a more hierarchical global order

A return of imperial logic

Across these three revolutions runs a common thread: the restoration of a colonial-imperial mindset. Not territorial colonialism but a structural world-view built on hierarchy, entitlement, and the presumption that the strong may impose costs while the weak absorb them.

The NSS provides bureaucratic vocabulary; the Heritage supplies the ideological foundations.

The analytical utility of cruelty lies in naming this organising logic. It captures a system where the suffering generated by policy is neither incidental nor unfortunate but integrated into the functioning of the political and economic order.

The G-20 restructuring and the 2025 NSS are manifestations of the same deeper shift. The world is entering an era where the U.S. seeks to protect its sovereignty through contraction, assert influence through hierarchy, and reshape global governance through exclusion.

The final irony is that the victims of this reordering are not confined to distant shores. They live in Maputo and Dhaka, yes, but also in Harlan, Kentucky. The architecture of cruelty is global, but its consequences are intimate. It reaches the world, but it also circles back home.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MGNREGA replaced

Twenty years since the initiation of MGNREGA, a welfare policy that assured 100 days of guaranteed employment has seen an erosion and the addition of political colour. Welfare schemes, irrespective of political differences, should be left untouched and all-out efforts must be made to continue and improve the schemes, which should be the foremost priority for effective governance. The name change is inappropriate; equally so the increased financial burden on States.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

The proposed restructuring of NREGA, shifting nearly 40% of the funding onus to States, is a major alteration of a consequential social safety net. The Bill warrants scrutiny by a Parliamentary Standing Committee, given its implications for rural livelihoods, fiscal federalism and constitutional balance. States differ vastly in fiscal capacity. So, transferring expenditure responsibility without assured revenue devolution risks hollowing out the programme where it is needed most. The Finance Commission ought to append clear recommendations on compensatory devolution, either through enhanced tax shares or a dedicated fund pool for employment guarantees.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Renaming/replacing the MGNREGA Act with the 'Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)' Bill marks a shift from a proven, rights-based employment guarantee to political rebranding. While increasing workdays is welcome, it could have been done through amendments. By altering funding responsibilities and weakening central commitment, the move risks undermining rural livelihoods, cooperative federalism, and the credibility of a long-standing social safety net.

N. Sadhasiva Reddy,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

India and the U.S.: 2005 versus 2025

Amitabh Mattoo
Dean and Professor, School of International Studies, JNU;
and former Member National Security Advisory Board

In 2005, when I served on the Prime Minister's Task Force on Global Strategic Developments chaired by K. Subrahmanyam, India and the U.S. stood at the threshold of a historic transformation. Washington had declared that it wished to "help India become a major world power in the 21st century." It was an extraordinary statement, not merely because of what it promised but because of the confidence it reflected. The U.S. then still believed that strengthening responsible rising powers would strengthen the world. That belief seemed to form, for many, the bedrock of the civil nuclear breakthrough and of a strategic partnership built on a shared sense of possibility.

The U.S.'s retreat

Reading the 2025 U.S. National Security Strategy (NSS) is therefore an unsettling experience. The document is saturated with self-praise. It claims to have "brought our nation – and the world – back from the brink of catastrophe and disaster" and asserts that "no administration in history has achieved so dramatic a turnaround in so short a time." But this assertiveness feels defensive. It projects a nation unsure of its place in a world it no longer fully comprehends, yet unwilling to concede that uncertainty even to itself. The result is a strategy that is less a map for global action and more an exercise in national reassurance.

The contrast with the intellectual spirit of 2005 could not be sharper. Then, Washington spoke the language of partnership. Today, it speaks the language of burdens. "The days of the United States propping up the entire world order like Atlas are over," the strategy declares. Global leadership, once embraced with ease, is now treated as a cost to be minimised. The overriding imperative is not to elevate the international system but to lighten America's load.

Nowhere is this shift more stark than in the treatment of India. Cooperation is acknowledged but is instrumental. India is framed less as a civilisational actor and more as a component in America's China calculus. The NSS states that the U.S. must "continue to improve commercial (and other) relations with India to encourage New Delhi to contribute to Indo-Pacific security, including through continued quadrilateral cooperation with... 'the Quad'." In this framing, India is not an end in itself but a means to a balance-of-power arrangement the U.S. seeks to preserve.

In 2005, India's rise was an objective; now, it is a function. This narrowing is part of a broader retreat from internationalist confidence. The so-called Trump Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, declaring an intent to "assert and enforce" hemispheric exclusivity, speaks to a nation turning inward. The irony is difficult to miss. In 2005, when India spoke of strategic autonomy, many in Washington bristled. In 2025, when America claims an expansive and unilateral autonomy, it calls it realism.

The document's tone reinforces this inwardness. It catalogues a series of claimed diplomatic triumphs, resolving multiple global conflicts "from Cambodia and Thailand" to "Pakistan and India". These read less like diplomatic achievements and more like political assertions crafted for domestic effect. Strategy becomes performance, and performance becomes a substitute for engagement with the world's real fissures.

For India, the implications are clear. The U.S. that sought to create strategic space for India in 2005 is not the U.S. reflected in the NSS – it is preoccupied with its own vulnerabilities, identity, and hierarchy of burdens. It demands more from partners yet offers less in return. It speaks of shared interests while retreating from shared responsibilities. It calls for burden-sharing but often means burden-shifting.

This does not diminish the importance of India-U.S. cooperation. It simply changes its foundations. India cannot rely on the assumption that Washington will invest in India's rise as a matter of strategic design. India's rise will depend on India. Partnership will endure where interests converge and remain measured where they do not. As the NSS itself insists, partners must increasingly "assume primary responsibility for their regions," a polite but unmistakable signal that U.S. support will be conditional and limited.

The path forward

The lesson of 2005 remains valuable because it reminds us of the conditions under which strategic transformations occur: confidence on both sides and a belief that the other's ascent strengthens one's own. The 2025 strategy lacks that confidence. It is shaped by grievance at past overreach, suspicion of institutions, and a preoccupation with restoring an earlier notion of American primacy.

India therefore must resist the temptation to interpret this document through the lens of earlier hopes. The era that produced the civil nuclear breakthrough was an era of widening horizons for both India and the U.S. The era that produced this strategy is one of contracting horizons for the U.S. and expanding responsibilities for India. If India is to be a major world power in the 21st century, it will not be because any external actor wills it. It will be because India possesses the strategic confidence and material capacity to act independently within a fragmented global order.

Paradoxically, the 2025 strategy makes that reality clearer than its authors intend. By reducing the scope of American commitments, it widens the space for others. For India, the challenge is not to fill a vacuum but to craft a role suited to its scale, interests, and civilisational temperament. The assumptions of 2005 cannot return, but the aspiration that animated them is ours to pursue.

The 2025 U.S. National Security Strategy document marks a profound departure from the logic articulated in 2005. For India, the implications are clear.

In a state of political flux

Leadership issues plague the two major parties in Karnataka

STATE OF PLAY

Sharath S. Srivatsa
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Karnataka politics seems to be undergoing a churn with leadership tussles in two national parties emerging prominently in public discourse. If the tussle in the ruling Congress over the last few months has taken the focus away from governance issues to the so-called "secret understanding" over the sharing of power, the fractured State unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is losing out on opportunities to corner the Congress both on governance and political issues.

In the Congress, a recent breakfast meeting in Bengaluru between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is also the president of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, was believed to have brought temporary truce between them and their factions ahead of the ongoing winter session of the Assembly at Belagavi. The conversation on the yet-to-be-publicly-acknowledged power-sharing agreement between the two leaders, and public statements by their followers, had threatened to embarrass the party and provide fodder to the BJP attack the government during the session.

However, the fragile understanding arrived at during the breakfast meeting, after a nudge from the party's high command, gave way at the very start of the session. MLC Yathindra Siddharamaiah, who is the son of the Chief Minister, rekindled the issue by stating his "personal view" that his father would head the government for the full term, spawning a series of reactions.

While both Mr. Siddharamaiah and Mr. Shivakumar have deferred the leadership decision to the high command, several party leaders are keen on an early resolution, so the party can move forward. Ambitious second-rung leaders are also quietly making their moves to further their political careers. Some have even said that they are anxious that the government's image is taking a beating because of the unresolved leadership issue and may impact the next Assembly elections – still two and a half years away. The constant chatter about whether or not there will be a Cabinet reshuffle or expansion – with the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister camps divided on the issue – is only adding to the atmosphere of confusion.

Amid the unending debate on leadership, the government is accused of falling short in carrying out developmental work. It is also facing the burden of spending about ₹60,000 crore annually to implement the Congress's five flagship guarantee schemes. Despite these issues, the BJP's ability to put the government on the mat is dented due to the friction in the party over B.Y. Vijayendra's leadership in the State unit. A section of BJP legislators and leaders have been opposed to the elevation of Mr. Vijayendra, son of Lingayat strongman and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, as the State BJP president. Senior lawmaker Basannagouda Patil Yatnal has been expelled from the BJP for repeatedly expressing in public his views against the party chief, but Mr. Vijayendra has more detractors within the party. With a new BJP president, Nitin Nabin, set to take office at the national level, the party is hoping for an early end to dissidence.

In the legislature in the ongoing Belagavi session, the BJP also appears to lack the teeth to attack the Congress. The Congress top leadership has been in the Assembly for over three decades and the party also has a large number of second-rung leaders. On the other hand, the saffron party's senior leadership has limited presence in the legislature. For example, two former Chief Ministers from the party – Jagadish Shettar and Basavaraj Bommai – are now in Parliament. Only a few leaders are capable of holding fort in the Assembly.

Meanwhile, the BJP's National Democratic Alliance ally, Janata Dal (Secular) [JD(S)], the regional party that celebrated its silver jubilee this year, is looking to elevate Nikhil Kumaraswamy, the grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, in the party's hierarchy. As the JD(S) fights to hold on to its turf, Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy's father is for the most part tied up in New Delhi as a Central Minister.

The party has recently recast its committees, but is holding back on announcing the State president. There are reasons for this: G.T. Deve Gowda, a senior Vokkaliga leader who has a sizeable following in the Old Mysore district, is now ignored and a few other legislators too are believed to be unhappy in the party. The JD(S) appears to providing the family's scion, who has faced three electoral defeats, a chance to cut his teeth in politics.

Women more willing to donate organs posthumously in India

In 17 out of 21 major States, more women were willing to donate organs posthumously than men

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

India belongs to a small cluster of nations where living organ donations vastly outnumber deceased organ donations. Ironically, this is not due to a lack of intent; data indicate that posthumous organ donation intent among Indians is relatively high.

Crucially, women showed a greater willingness to donate organs after death. This sentiment aligns with the reality that women continue to shoulder the burden of donations. However, men significantly outnumber women among organ recipients – a trend that data suggest is driven not only by social factors, but potentially by a higher need among men.

These insights stem from an analysis of Indian driving license applications submitted in 2024, which explicitly asked applicants if they were willing to donate their organs or tissue in the event of death. **Chart 1** illustrates the State-wise percentage of men and women who answered 'yes'.

This trend holds true even in populous States such as Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, where willingness among women ranged from 17% to 21%, while men lagged behind in the 12% to 19% range. The highest level of willingness among women was seen in Delhi (approximately 27%). This far outstripped the male share of 16%. Meanwhile, Odisha led the charts for men with a national high of 20%; yet even in that State, women were more willing, at 22%.

However, there are caveats. First, stated intent differs from action. Second, the data are skewed towards a younger demographic typical of new license applicants, though they do include renewals. Yet, the potential is undeniable: if even a fraction of these pledges translated into reality, it would transform India's donation landscape, where transplants from deceased donors have only been fewer than 24,000 in the last decade.

Chart 2, which plots the 2024 data across 77 countries, lays bare this disparity. While India ranks a respectable 20th globally for living donors (10.8 living donors per million), it plummets to 67th for deceased donors (0.8 deceased donors per million).

When read together, Charts 1 and 2 raise a pertinent question. We know that public willingness is high, and the robust figures for living transplants prove that the medical infrastructure is capable. This suggests that the failure lies somewhere in the middle, in the systemic disconnect between a citizen's intent and the hospital's ability to execute it.

The gender skew in Chart 1 is noticeable. Of the 21 major States for which data were considered, more women were willing to donate organs in 17. So, higher willingness could also explain why women donate more organs than men. In 2023, over 60% of donors were women **(Chart 3).**

In sharp contrast, when we look at organ recipients, in 2023, nearly 65% were men. This is a lopsided ratio that reflects a long-standing and persistent skew in India's transplant ecosystem. **Chart 3** details the organ-wise breakdown of recipients in 2023. The share of male recipients was distinctly higher than that of women across every category. In the case of liver transplants, men accounted for a staggering 70% of recipients in 2023.

Does this reflect a higher medical need? An earlier analysis by us revealed that in 2022, 4.5 times more men than women died of liver disease – a gap that has widened over the last decade **(Chart 4).** Crucially, these deaths were concentrated among middle-aged men, pointing to alcohol-related complications as a primary driver.

Skewed donor gap

The data for the charts were sourced from NOTTO's annual reports, the Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation, and MCCD reports

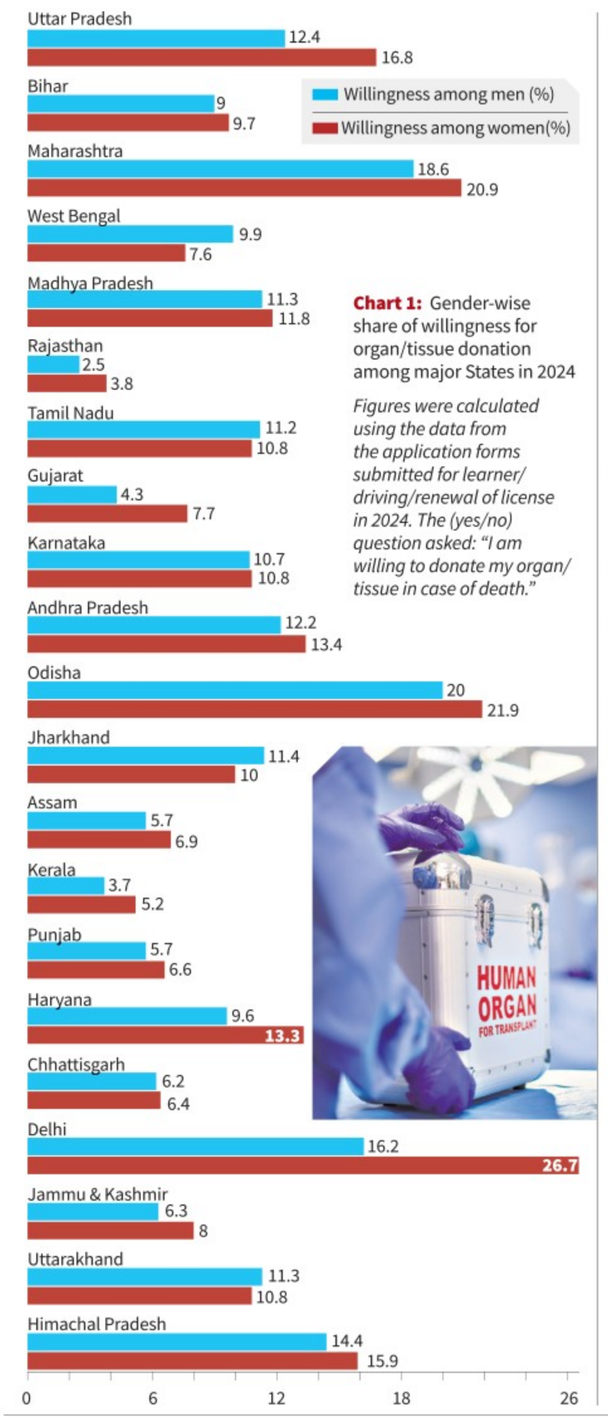


Chart 1: Gender-wise share of willingness for organ/tissue donation among major States in 2024

Figures were calculated using the data from the application forms submitted for learner/driving/renewal of license in 2024. The (yes/no) question asked: "I am willing to donate my organ/tissue in case of death."

Chart 2: Deceased and living donors per million population in 77 countries (2024)

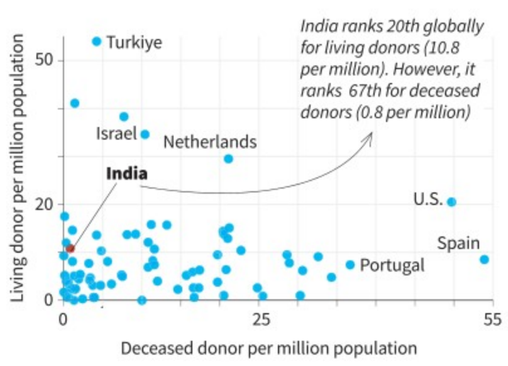


Chart 3: Gender-wise breakdown of donors and recipients for select organs in 2023

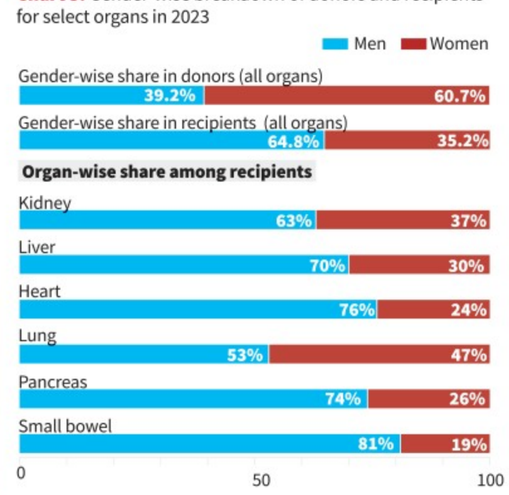
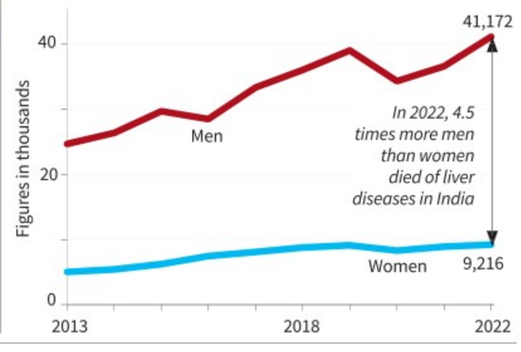


Chart 4: Gender-wise number of certified deaths due to liver diseases in India between 2013 and 2022



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 17, 1975

British-time silver bars seized in Madras

Madras, Dec. 16: Four pre-Independence silver bars bearing the stamp "H.M. Mint, Bombay 1945" each weighing 40 kgs and valued at Rs. 1.75 lakhs were recovered recently from the house of an unregistered pawnbroker in Madras by a special squad of the Central Excise Department. Also found were primary gold and gold ornaments valued at over Rs. 15 lakhs.

Disclosing this at a press conference to-day, Mr. I.J. Rao, Collector of Central Excise, said "this idle hoard of wealth" might have been in the family for a long time but the Gold Control Rules of the Union Government required that any person having in his possession more than 4,000 grammes of gold ornaments should declare it to the Government.

Mr. Rao pointed out that the investigation personnel raided the house in the city and located the hoarded wealth buried under the floor of an unused kitchen. The pawnbroker later confessed his guilt.

The Collector has further intensified the drive to detect undeclared wealth and smuggled goods. He deployed senior detective personnel in three districts of Salem, North and South Arcot. The strategy paid dividends and these officials caught a person at Attoor in Salem district and seized 1.430 grammes of gold ornaments valued at over Rs. 1.45 lakhs.

At Namakkal, the party raided another house and recovered gold ornaments valued at over Rs. 37,000, concealed in rice bags.

Mr. Rao said another squad detected about Rs. 34,000 worth of jewellery hidden inside the hollow bottom of a table, at Namakkal.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 17, 1925

English emigrants to Canada

Leafield (Oxford), Mid. Dec. 16-17: Very cheap passages for emigrants to Canada were announced in Parliament by Major Ormsby-Gore, Under-Secretary for Dominions. He said that under the agreement reached between His Majesty's Government and the trans-Atlantic shipping companies, persons proceeding to Canada next year under assistance under the Marine Settlement Act would be able to travel to eastern ports of Canada for £3 instead of £15-5s and to Winnipeg for £5-10s instead of £20-10s.

From Page One

‘Sydney beach shooter was Indian citizen’

The Telangana police remain committed to cooperating with Central agencies and other counterparts, as and when required, the statement said, urging the public and media to avoid speculation or attribution without verified facts.

Akram died during the attack. His son Naveed, the other Bondi Beach attacker, was born in Australia in 2001 and is an Australian citizen. He was shot at by the police and has been admitted to a hospital.

The official said that Akram’s immediate family still lives in Hyderabad, and his elder brother is a doctor. His late father had worked in the United Arab Emirates.

“After completing his Bachelors [degree] in commerce from Hyderabad, Akram moved to Australia and married a European woman. He retained his Indian passport,” the official said.

Sources also confirmed to *The Hindu* that Australian authorities were “in touch” with Indian officials about the investigation.

Philippines immigration officials had earlier said that Sajid Akram had travelled to the Philippines on an Indian passport last month. “Sajid Akram, 50, Indian national, and Naveed Akram, 24, Australian national, arrived in the Philippines together last November 1, 2025, from Sydney, Australia,” Bureau of Immigration spokesperson Dana Sandoval told news agencies in Manila on Tuesday.

The Ministry of External Affairs did not respond to queries on the Filipino official’s statement. MEA officials said that it was for Australian authorities to provide details of their investigations.

Thus far, Australian authorities have declined to comment on the origins of the attackers. When asked specifically whether Sajid Akram belonged to India or to Pakistan, as reports suggested, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said that such details were part of the ongoing investigation.

“So I can’t go into that detail, and it wouldn’t be appropriate to undermine the investigation by going into it,” Mr. Albanese told presspersons on Tuesday.

EC publishes draft voter list for five States, U.T.s

Over 58 lakh names have been removed from the existing voter list in West Bengal, 42 lakh in Rajasthan, 10 lakh in Goa, a little over a lakh in Puducherry, and nearly 1,500 in Lakshadweep

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Roll call: People check their names on the draft electoral rolls at Balurghat in Dakshin Dinajpur of West Bengal on Tuesday. PTI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday published the draft electoral rolls of five States and Union Territories – including that of West Bengal, which is due to go to the polls next year – as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

More than 58 lakh names have been removed from the existing voters list in West Bengal, nearly 42 lakh in Rajasthan, 10 lakh in Goa, a little more than a lakh in Puducherry and nearly 1,500 in Lakshadweep.

Unlike the SIR exercise in Bihar, voters were not required to submit any of the 11 indicative documents to be included in the draft list under this phase, announced on October 27. Thus, the names of all voters who submitted the enumeration form would be on the draft list.

In case of any doubt, notices would be issued to voters whose names are on the draft list, and they could then be asked to produce documents, EC sources said. The draft list also includes names of voters who could not be mapped on the 2002-03 list when the SIR was last conducted, as well as those who might have been wrongly matched.

“Verification of each case will start now,” a source told *The Hindu*.

In West Bengal, 7.08 crore (92.4 %) voters – out of 7.6 crore on the electoral roll as of October 2025, before the SIR was announced – have submitted enumeration forms and, as a result, have been included on the draft list. Of the names deleted, 24.16 lakh (3.15%) were dead, 32.65 lakh (4.26 %) were found to have shifted or were absent, and 1.38 lakh (0.18 %) were found enrolled at multiple places.

In Rajasthan, of 5.46 crore voters on the existing list, 5.04 crore (92.34%) have been included in the draft list. Of the names deleted, 8.76 lakh (0.63%) were deceased voters, 29.6 lakh (5.43%) were those who had shifted or were absent, and 3.44 lakh (0.63 %) were found enrolled at multiple places.

In Goa, 10.84 lakh (91.56%) of 11.85 lakh names are on the draft list. Of the names removed, 25,574 (2.16%) were deceased, 72,471 (6.12%) were found to have shifted or absent, and 1,997 (0.17%) had enrolled at multiple places.

In the Union Territory of Puducherry, of the existing 10.21 lakh names, 9.18 lakh (89.87%) are on the draft list. Of the names deleted, 20,798 were deceased, 80,645 were found to have shifted or have been absent, and 2,024 were enrolled at multiple places.

Lakshadweep, the other Union Territory, has 56,384 (97.53%) names on the draft list, of the existing 57,813 voters. Of those left out, 705 were dead, 252 were found shifted/absent and 472 were those who had enrolled at multiple places.

The EC said that the draft rolls, along with a detailed, booth-wise list of deleted voters and reasons for deletion, have been made available on the Chief Electoral Officer website, the Election Commission’s voter portal and the ECINET application.

It said that if a voter does not find his or her name on the draft voter list, he or she must fill Form 6 and submit it along with the requisite documents.

During the claims and objections period from December 16 to January 15, any existing or prospective elector may file claims or objections. The verification phase will end on February 7; final rolls will be published on February 14.

West Bengal Sports Minister resigns over chaos at Messi event

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Aroop Biswas

West Bengal Sports Minister Aroop Biswas on Tuesday resigned over the chaos at Lionel Messi’s event at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on December 13.

Mr. Biswas tendered his resignation to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who accepted it.

“As per the enclosed letter, I appreciate the sentiment and intention of the Sports Minister to offer a relief from the Sports Department for the sake of impartial inquiry into the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) incident on 13th December, 2025,” a letter signed by the Chief Minister said.

Ms. Banerjee added that Mr. Biswas “is correct (to resign) and until and unless the impartial inquiry is over, the Sports Department will be looked after by me for the time being”.

Violence had erupted at the stadium as football fans vandalised the premises after Mr. Messi’s brief appearance. Organisers of the event, including the Minister, surrounded Mr. Messi, while spectators who had bought tickets at a hefty price were enraged over being unable to get a glimpse of the football icon.

The State government also issued show cause notices to Director-General of Police Rajeev Kumar, Bidhannagar Police Commissioner Mukesh Kumar and Principal Secretary of Youth Affairs and Sports Department Rajesh Kumar Sinha.

A Special Investigation Team has been constituted with Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) Jawed Shamim, ADGP, South Bengal, Supratim Sarkar, Director (Security) Peeyush Pandey and Barrackpore Police Commissioner Muralidhar. The government also suspended Bidhannagar DCP Aneesh Sarkar and initiated departmental proceedings against the officer. On December 13, the government set up an inquiry commission led by Justice Ashim Kumar Ray (retd.).

The chaos had prompted Mr. Banerjee to apologise to sports lovers.

SC issues notice after Justice Varma challenges inquiry panel formed by Speaker

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to examine a petition filed by the Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma assailing the action of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in “unilaterally” constituting a committee under the Judges (Inquiry) Act to investigate him.

A Bench headed by Justice Dipankar Datta issued notice to Mr. Birla through the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Lok Sabha Secretary-General, and Secretary-General of the Council of States. The petition was filed under the acronym ‘X’ to maintain anonymity. The case is likely to be taken up on January 7, 2026.

Justice Yashwant Varma

In March, sacks of half-burnt currency notes were allegedly videotaped in a storeroom of Justice Varma’s official residence in Delhi after a fire on the premises. Justice Varma was a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court at the time of the incident. He was later transferred to the Allahabad High Court.

An in-house inquiry procedure started by then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna recommended the removal of Justice Varma from office. The recommendation was forwarded to Parliament, after which Speaker Om Birla constituted a three-member committee.

Justice Varma, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, said the constitution of the committee violated both his right to be treated and protected equally by the law. He argued that though notices of motion for removal were given in both Houses of Parliament on the same day, the Speaker constituted the committee unilaterally. The Act mandated joint consultation with the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

With PM in Jordan, Jaishankar in Israel, India reiterates its position on West Asian conflicts

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Boosting ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Crown Prince Al Hussein Bin Abdullah II in Amman on Tuesday. ANI

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Amman calling for an India-Jordan collaboration for the reconstruction of war-ravaged Syria, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Tel Aviv expressing India’s support for the Trump peace plan for Gaza, India on Tuesday reiterated its willingness to play an important role in the fast-evolving scenario in West Asia.

Speaking at the India-Jordan Business Forum, Mr. Modi said King Abdullah II had shared his vision of developing railways and “next-generation infrastructure” in Jordan. “During our meeting yesterday, His Majesty also highlighted the infrastructure reconstruction needs in Syria. Indian and Jordanian companies can collaborate to address these requirements together,” he said.

Mr. Modi – who was in Jordan earlier during Monday-Tuesday for his ongoing three-nation tour covering Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman – met with King Abdullah II and expressed mutual determination to fight “terrorism, extremism and radicalisation”. The two dignitaries also discussed regional conflicts. “Prime Minister reaffirmed India’s support for efforts being made to achieve durable peace in the region,” the External Affairs Ministry said.

A day after Mr. Modi reached Jordan, Mr. Jaishankar landed in the Israeli capital Tel Aviv where he was welcomed by the Foreign Minister Gideon Saar. Mr. Jaishankar condemned the terror attack in Bondi beach of Sydney, Australia, and said, “Where India and Israel are concerned, we are both countries who have a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism.”

“I also would like to listen to you about the regional situation. I want to say that India supports the Gaza peace plan (given by President Trump) and hopes that it will lead to a lasting and durable solution,” he said.

Mr. Jaishankar’s visit has attracted attention as in its backdrop, the Israeli Knesset passed a law to stop the activities of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees that India has historically assisted.

PM honoured with Ethiopia’s highest award

Press Trust of India
ADDIS ABABA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday was conferred with Ethiopia’s highest award ‘The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia’ by his Ethiopian counterpart Abiy Ahmed Ali.

The award was to honour Mr. Modi’s role in strengthening India-Ethiopia ties, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

India and Ethiopia also elevated their ties to a strategic partnership, after the leaders discussed issues of bilateral interest.

Policeman killed in Udhampur encounter

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

A policeman was killed in an ongoing anti-terror operation in Jammu’s Udhampur on Tuesday.

“A small team of SOG (Special Operation Group) had an encounter with three terrorists, and our officer, Amjad Ali Khan, was hit during the firing. We tried to rescue him but lost him due to the excessive blood loss,” Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti said.

“The cordon and search operation was launched Monday evening in Soan village following a specific input. The input proved accurate and a small team of the SOG came under fire from terrorists,” Mr. Tuti said, adding that the operation was still on-going.

878 infiltrators held from Myanmar border in two years, govt. tells LS

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As many as 43 gates were operationalised to regulate movement of people along the Myanmar border. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As many as 878 “infiltrators” were caught along the India-Myanmar border over the past two years, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply that 9.2 km of the total 1,643-km border with Myanmar had been fenced so far.

The reply stated that from 2014 to 2025 (till November 30), the number of infiltrators arrested along the Myanmar border stood at 45, 32, 20, 15, 39, 57, 58, 73, 173, 212, 441 and 437, respectively.

FMR regulated

In February 2024, months after the 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur, Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the entire Myanmar border will be fenced and the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the north-eastern border will be scrapped. However, FMR, which allows cross-border movement of people to a certain distance without visas and passports, continued but was regulated.

In December 2024, a new framework was implemented, under which the territorial limits of FMR was reduced from 16 km to 10 km. As many as 43 designated exit and entry gates were operationalised to regulate the movement of people, and biometrics and gate passes were introduced.

From Bangladesh

The reply also added that in 2024 and 2025, the number of infiltrators who were arrested along the Bangladesh border stood at 2,525 and 2,556, respectively. Between the years 2014 and 2023, the number of such arrests stood at 2,160, 2,809, 1,601, 907, 884, 1,109, 955, 1,208, 2,076, and 2,617, respectively.

The reply added that 93.25% of the India-Pakistan border, which is 2,289.66 km long, has been physically fenced. The remaining 154.524 km is unfenced. It added that of the 4,096.70-km India-Bangladesh border, 3,239.92 km, that is 79.08%, has been physically fenced. The remaining 856.778 km is unfenced.

NIA can take over cases of ‘hardcore’ criminals: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday suggested the National Investigation Agency (NIA) take over the cases prosecuted under Central penal laws involving “organised, professional and hardcore” criminals. A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said these cases could be transferred to special courts exclusively trying NIA cases in Delhi.

Justice Bagchi said the NIA had the power to take over from the States the investigation and prosecution of offences “affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of state”. The court said such cases scattered across States could be brought under one roof.

SC expresses shock over money lost to digital arrest fraud

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed to the Union government its shock at the “staggering amounts” digital arrest scammers have been able to siphon off from India.

A note given by the Centre in the court showed that ₹3,000 crore has already been scammed by fraudsters from victims, mostly drawn from the elderly population, through ‘digital arrests’. But these statistics are based on reported complaints of digital arrests. The court said there ought to be a system to alert customers against such scams.

APPEAL

Dishva is 4 years old, suffering from “Acute Myeloid Leukemia-High Risk” and advised to undergo Chemotherapy followed by Allogenic Bone Marrow transplantation at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai**. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. His father works as a sales person. Please help him to undergo the treatment as the family is very poor and they cannot afford this huge expenditure. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No.60182010063310, IFSC No.CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN’S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**
Email ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

Govt. introduces Bill to replace MGNREGA amid loud protests

Centre says Bill is 'in line with Gandhiji's sentiments' and will bring '*Ram Rajya*' to villages; Opposition says the new legislation will weaken employment rights of the poor, and demands that the Bill be sent for parliamentary scrutiny

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday introduced the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025, which seeks to replace the two-decade-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), amid Opposition protests.

Members marched from the Lok Sabha chamber to Mahatma Gandhi's statue on the Parliament premises, demanding the Bill be sent for further scrutiny.

Introducing the Bill, Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "The [Narendra] Modi government has done more for rural development than previous governments. We not only believe in Mahatma Gandhi but also follow his principles... We will fully develop villages and work to establish a balance between agriculture and labour... This entire Bill is in line with Gandhiji's sentiments and is meant to establish *Ram Rajya*."

Opposition leaders strongly objected with the DMK's T.R. Baalu saying, "The father of the nation is being ridiculed."

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra called MGNREGA a "revolutionary Act" which was unanimously supported by Parliament.

Opposition MPs raising slogans in the Lok Sabha as Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan introduces the VB-G RAM G Bill, 2025, during the Winter session of Parliament on Tuesday. SANSAD TV

"This Bill (VB-G RAM G) is weakening the employment rights of the poor. It is against the Constitution," she said, accusing the government of dismantling the demand-driven architecture of MGNREGA and replacing it with a predecided budget. She also flagged centralisation of decision making. "The new Bill weakens the rights-based structure of the MGNREGA," she said.

Ms. Vadra warned that reducing the Centre's share of funding from 90% to 60% would hit State finances already strained by GST compensation delays. Proposing that the Bill be sent to a parliamentary panel, she added: "Mahatma Gandhi was not from my family, but he was from every family in the country."

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had always opposed Mahatma Gandhi's ideas and sought to weaken MGNREGA since coming to power. "Modi *ji* has a deep hatred for two things – the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and the rights of the poor," he said, vowing the Congress will oppose any such move.

Ill-advised: Tharoor

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor called the Bill a "retrograde step" and "ill-advised", criticising the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name. "It strips the Bill of its moral compass and historical legitimacy," he said. Quoting a 1971 Hindi film song, he said, *"Dekho o deewano ye kaam na karo, Ram ka naam badnaam na karo* (don't do this, don't malign Ram's name)." Mr. Tharoor argued that shifting liability to States violated fiscal federalism.

The Trinamool Congress's Saugata Roy demanded the Bill be referred to a select committee. The RSP's N.K. Premachandran pointed out technical flaws, and said States could not afford the financial burden.

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal dismissed the promise of 125 days of work as "hollow". Addressing Mr. Chouhan, he said: "Your name will be remembered as a Minister who removed Mahatma Gandhi's name."

Members marched from LS chamber to Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Parliament demanding the Bill be sent for further scrutiny

Opposition members stormed the Well of the House, holding photographs of Gandhiji. Amid the din, Mr. Chouhan reiterated that the Bill reflected Gandhian ideals and aimed to create "Ram Rajya" in villages. After walking out, Opposition MPs marched to the Mahatma Gandhi statue. Women members raised slogans from the old Parliament building's balcony. Left parties had earlier staged protests before the sitting began.

The Congress announced nationwide protests on Wednesday. In a letter to State presidents, Mr. Venugopal called for demonstrations at district headquarters. "The combined attack on Gandhiji's legacy, workers' rights and federal responsibility exposes a larger BJP-RSS conspiracy to dismantle rights-based welfare and replace it with charity controlled from the Centre." He called it both a "political and moral struggle".

Court rejects ED's plea against Rahul, Sonia in *National Herald* case

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday refused to take cognisance of the Enforcement Directorate's money laundering complaint against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, in connection with the *National Herald* case.

Special judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court noted that the complaint filed by the Central agency, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), was not maintainable because the case is based on a special complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy before a magistrate under Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, not on a first information report (FIR).

"An investigation and the consequent prosecution complaint pertaining to the offence of money laundering, defined under Section 3 and punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA is not maintainable in the absence of an FIR for the offence mentioned in the Schedule to the Act," the court said in its 117-page order.

The *National Herald* case stems from a ₹90 crore loan advanced by the Congress to Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL), the publisher of *National Herald*, which was then assigned to Young Indian for a consideration of ₹50 lakh. Young Indian is a not-for-profit company in which the Gandhis hold a majority stake.

It has been alleged that there was misappropriation of assets worth over ₹2,000 crore in an equity transaction.

The complaint in the case was filed by Mr. Swamy, who highlighted an alleged criminal conspiracy by several prominent political figures.

The Rouse Avenue Court says the complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy is not maintainable. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'Politically motivated' campaign exposed: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The "politically motivated prosecution" by the Narendra Modi government stands fully exposed, the Congress said on Tuesday after a court refused to take cognisance of the chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the *National Herald* money laundering case.

"The *mala fide* and illegality of the Modi government stand fully exposed. The court has ruled that the ED case is without jurisdiction; it has no FIR, without which there is no case. This politically motivated prosecution by the Modi government over the last decade of the principal Opposition party stands exposed before the people of India," the Congress said in a statement. It said the case was part of a "political witch hunt" and "reputation assassination campaign" that has been defeated.

Centre should fill three lakh vacancies in ICDS: Sonia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday raised concerns over the distress faced by women frontline workers, urging the Centre to double its contribution to their honorarium and fill nearly three lakh vacancies in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Ms. Gandhi said Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, anganwadi workers and helpers, and community resource persons under the National Rural Livelihood Mission remain overburdened and underpaid despite their vital role in public service delivery.

"Across the country, ASHA workers undertake immunisation, mobilisation, maternal health, and family welfare. Yet, they remain volunteers with low honorarium and limited social security," she said.

Ms. Gandhi pointed out that anganwadi workers received a base honorarium of ₹4,500 and helpers ₹2,250 per month from the Centre.

She also flagged nearly three lakh vacancies in ICDS at various levels, leaving lakhs of children and mothers without essential services.

"Even when filled, these posts fall short of population norms due to the lack of updated Census figures since 2011," she said.

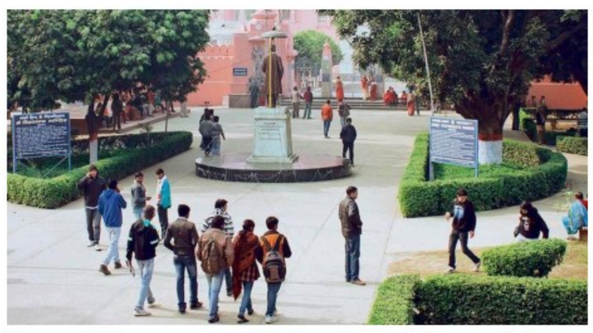
The Congress leader sought the appointment of an additional ASHA worker in villages with a population of over 2,500 and doubling the number of anganwadi workers to enable early childhood education alongside nutrition and health initiatives.

'Conscious' decision to separate funding from regulator, say officials on higher education Bill

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Union government's decision to take away funding powers from the regulatory authority and create separate regulatory, accreditation, and standards councils for higher education institutions under the proposed Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, was a 'conscious' move in keeping with the National Education Policy, 2020 suggestion to minimise conflicts of interest, senior government officials said on Tuesday.

They said that this is why the Bill has segregated the three roles of regulation, accreditation, and standards-setting. However, the officials said the grant-disbursal function currently being exercised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) is proposed to be performed by the Ministry of Education.



The new Bill has segregated the roles of regulation, accreditation, and standards-setting in the higher education sector. FILE PHOTO

Without providing details, Education Ministry officials said that under the proposed law, the mechanism that will be used to disburse grants to Central universities "will be similar to or better than the existing mechanisms". They added that institutional performance on regulatory compliance will continue to be a "major factor" in deciding the quantum of funds to be distributed, but not the only one, citing the need for a "holistic view" while giving grants.

The VBSA Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday amid objections from the Opposition, proposes an overhaul of India's higher education regulatory framework, replacing the UGC, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), with a single apex commission – the VBSA, which will coordinate between a regulatory, an accreditation, and a standards councils, operating "autonomously". Most notably, it takes away grant-disbursal power from the regulatory authority, a power that UGC exercises in the current system.

A coalition of teachers' and students' associations and unions from across the country have raised objections, among others, about the proposition to take away funding power from the regulatory authority, noting that leaving it in the direct control of the Education Ministry would risk grants being subject to "political influence".

Education Ministry officials explained that even though the NEP 2020 had suggested a separate Council for disbursing grants that the UGC currently disburses to Central universities, "it was a conscious decision that this is not going to be possible" because of the multiplicity of "sources and funnels" through which higher education institutes across the country receive funding.

As soon as the government introduced the Bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday, it proposed that the Bill be sent for deliberation to a 31-member joint committee of Parliament.

Officials said the government hopes to engage in an intense discussion over the Bill's provisions and is encouraging suggestions to be submitted to the panel.

Nadda defends SIR, asks Congress to look into 'actual reason' for its electoral losses

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha concluded the discussion on electoral reforms on Tuesday, with Leader of the House and Union Minister J.P. Nadda defending the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and urging the Opposition to cooperate with electoral reforms as they are essential for democracy. The Opposition's response was spearheaded by Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien, who said SIR seeks to "divide, distract and deflect".

The Opposition Congress had misled the people of the country by creating a "false narrative" on SIR, Mr. Nadda said in his concluding remarks. The Congress had hurt national sentiments by questioning the Election Commission of India (EC) in order to hide its (the Congress's) electoral failures, he alleged. "Instead of blaming the Election Commission and electoral process, the Congress should find the actual reason for its successive defeats in elections," Mr. Nadda said.

Congress had misled people by creating 'false narrative' on SIR, says J.P. Nadda. SANSAD TV

No infiltrators would be included in the voter lists, or allowed to vote in elections, the Minister said. "The SIR falls within the Constitutional powers of the EC and it is the Commission's duty to periodically purify and rectify the electoral rolls to ensure no eligible voter is excluded from the list, and no ineligible voter is included. An attempt has been made to create an atmosphere in the country regarding the SIR...as if some rigging is taking place... The [Bihar] election results that have come in must surely trouble you (the Congress). You are applying the medicine somewhere, but the disease is somewhere else. You will have to find your own disease," he said.

Opposition's attack

Countering Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that the SIR is meant to "detect, delete, deport", Mr. O'Brien said the 'Ds' actually stood for "divide, distract and deflect". The Centre was using the SIR to divide people and "polarise the electorate on the basis of religion and language". "You speak Bengali in some other States and you are targeted as being Bangladeshis – that's divide," Mr. O' Brien said.

Cong. issues whip asking MPs to be present

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday issued a whip in the Lok Sabha, mandating its MPs to be present in the House for the next three days as key Bills such as the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill and a new Bill to overhaul laws governing India's civil nuclear sector are likely to come up for consideration.

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill could be taken up for discussion on Wednesday.

INBRIEF

Rajya Sabha clears additional funds for fertilizer subsidy

The Rajya Sabha, on Tuesday, cleared the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants that authorises the Union government to additionally spend ₹41,455 crore in 2025-26. This includes over ₹ 18,000 crore towards fertilizer subsidy. The gross additional expenditure in the Supplementary Demands for Grants is ₹1.32 lakh crore, in which ₹90,812.17 crore is savings by various Ministries. The Supplementary Demands for Grants also has allocation of ₹9,500 crore to the Petroleum Ministry to compensate oil marketing companies for under-recoveries and ₹1,304 crore for additional expenditure by the Department of Higher Education.

'Nitish was fatherly when he pulled hijab off doctor's face'

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had acted in a "fatherly" manner when he pulled the hijab off a young woman's face, Minority Affairs Minister Zama Khan said on Tuesday. The incident, which happened on Monday at a function where AYUSH doctors were handed appointment letters, triggered a controversy. "The CM is, perhaps, older than the father of the woman in question. I have a daughter, and I could sense the fatherly affection he had expressed," Mr. Khan said. More than 1,000 AYUSH doctors were handed appointment letters at the function, and 10 of them, including Nusrat Parveen, who was wearing a hijab, received theirs from Mr. Kumar.

Lok Sabha passes Bill for repealing obsolete laws

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a Bill for repealing or amending 71 obsolete and outdated laws, including the Indian Succession Act. The proposed legislation is aimed at removing outdated laws, correcting errors that had crept in during the law-making process and removing discriminatory aspects of certain laws, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said. He said the progressive legislation would contribute to ease of living for citizens.

INBRIEF

Luthra brothers get transit remand in nightclub fire case

A Delhi court on Tuesday granted the Goa Police a two-day transit remand of Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra, the owners of the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Goa where 25 people were killed in a fire on December 6. The two accused, who had fled from the country soon after the incident, were deported to India from Thailand. The Goa Police arrested them at the airport in Delhi and produced them before Patiala House Court Judicial Magistrate Twinkle Chawla, who allowed two days transit remand against the police's request for three days. The Goa Police's public prosecutor told journalists that the accused will be taken to Goa on Wednesday.

34 Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

Thirty-four CPI(Maoist) cadres, including 26 carrying a cumulative bounty of ₹84 lakh, laid down their arms in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur on Tuesday, the police said. "As a result of the State government's comprehensive anti-Naxal policy, 34 Maoist cadres have today decided to abandon the path of violence and return to the mainstream of society. The group includes 7 women and 27 men," Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said. Under the government's rehabilitation process, each cadre will be provided with immediate financial assistance of ₹50,000 as an incentive, a police press release stated.

13 dead, 60 injured in vehicle pile-up on U.P. expressway

Vehicles catch fire within minutes of collision amid dense fog; three victims identified; nearly 100 vehicles have been involved in accidents over the past three days owing to low visibility

The Hindu Bureau
GHAZIABAD

Cranes clear the charred remains of buses after a fog-hit pile-up involving several buses and cars triggered fires on the Yamuna Expressway, in Mathura on Tuesday. PTI

At least 13 people were killed and 60 injured in a massive vehicle pile-up on the Agra-Lucknow Yamuna Expressway in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh in the early hours of Tuesday.

Eight buses and three smaller vehicles rammed into each other due to poor visibility in the dense fog, official sources said. Local people said they had heard a blast as the vehicles caught fire after the crash near the 127 milestone on the expressway.

Preliminary investigation and eyewitness accounts reveal that most deaths were due to burns. Within minutes of the accident, the vehicles were gutted. Three bodies have been identified so far. Some of the deceased were charred beyond recognition and would be identified through a DNA test.

Three-km traffic jam

In a six-hour rescue operation, police personnel from nine stations, the fire brigade, and the State Disaster Response Force were involved. The accident resulted in a three-kilometre traffic jam on the expressway.

The District Magistrate has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the accident. The police have also registered an FIR to determine the cause of the pile-up.

A four-member committee, led by an Additional District Magistrate, has been asked to submit the report within 48 hours.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Superintendent of Police, Rural, Suresh Chandra Rawat said preliminary investigation had revealed that the AC duct of a bus caught fire after the collision. "The diesel tank of the vehicle has been found intact. The impact of the crash suggests that apart from dense fog, high speed contributed to the accident," he said.

The district administration has released helpline numbers for assistance and information. The injured have been sent to government hospitals in Mathura and Vrindavan, and the critically injured have been referred to S.N. Medical College, Agra.

Expressing sorrow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each to the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 each for the injured.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced ₹2 lakh each for the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 each for the injured.

On Monday, four major accidents involving a total of 31 vehicles were reported across the State, resulting in injuries to 11 people.

Nearly 100 vehicles have been involved in accidents over the past three days owing to fog-induced poor visibility.

SC to examine plea seeking safeguard of intersex children

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petition calls for intersex recognition alongside male and female options in the Census, other forms

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to examine in detail a petition filed by intersex rights activist Gopi Shankar Madurai seeking urgent safeguards for intersex children, including a ban on non-consensual sex-selective surgeries on intersex infants, and comprehensive recognition in official records.

"This is a very good issue. We want to hear this," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, accompanied by Justice Joymalya Bagchi, remarked.

The Chief Justice ordered the petition to be placed before a larger Bench of three judges the next time.

The petitioner, represented by advocate Astha Deep, urged the inclusion of intersex infants in India's population Census, which currently overlooks this diverse group by enforcing binary sex norms.

"This invisibility affects over 25 million intersex individuals (1.7% of the population), denying them access to welfare, healthcare, and identity services. Inclusion of intersex in the national Census is crucial for accurate data collection and policy-making," the petitioner submitted.

The petition called for intersex recognition alongside the existing male and female options in the Census and other forms.

The case underscored the vital need for the judiciary and government to distinguish between sex identity and gender identity, and to clarify that intersex persons were not transgender.

"Sex identity referred to innate biological variations, including intersex traits that did not fit typical male or female binaries, whereas gender identity was a personal and social construct often involving a mismatch with assigned sex (as in transgender experiences). The conflation of these terms in laws, identity documents such as Aadhaar and passports, and policies leads to forced interventions on infants, and discrimination. Issuing cards that separately record sex and gender is urged to uphold Articles 14, 15, and 21, fostering dignity and equality," the petitioner submitted.

'IndiGo will implement new norms before Feb.10'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it will ensure IndiGo implements the new pilot rest and duty norms expeditiously, despite the regulator granting the airline an exemption until February 10.

Appearing before a Bench of Justice Amit Sharma in connection with a contempt plea moved by a pilot body seeking proceedings against the regulator for relaxations to various airlines, the DGCA said the "exemptions are not granted happily". The Bench asked the top officials of the DGCA to file their response.

The court listed the case for the next hearing on April 17, 2026.

Rashtrapati Bhavan displays portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu felicitates a veteran official during the inauguration of the 'Param Vir Dirgha' gallery in New Delhi. PTI

Portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees are now on display at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, replacing the previously displayed portraits of 96 British *Aide-de-Camps* (ADCs).

The Param Vir Chakra is India's highest military honour, awarded for displaying the most exceptional acts of valour, courage, and self-sacrifice during war.

The initiative aims to honour the memory of soldiers who had laid down their lives in the service of the nation. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 'Param Vir Dirgha' at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday, on the occasion of Vijay Divas.

"The move will assist in educating visitors about our national heroes who displayed dauntless resolve and unconquerable spirit in defending our nation. The initiative to display portraits of Indian national heroes marks a step toward shedding the colonial mindset and embracing, with pride, the richness of India's culture, heritage, and timeless traditions," a release issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

The government had been working to restore pride in India's "sanatan values", with prominent changes including the renaming of the Rajpath to Kartavya Path, a senior Central government official said.

Similarly, the Indian Navy's ensign has shed the Saint George's Cross, adopting instead a design featuring the National Flag and a Navy blue-gold octagon dedicated to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The 2022 Republic Day Beating Retreat ceremony, part of the '*Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*', embraced Indian instruments, including the sitar, santoor, and tabla.

Decolonial renaming

Across India, including on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, colonial nomenclature has been replaced, the official said.

In 2018, Ross Island was renamed Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep, Neil Island became Shaheed Dweep, and Havelock Island was renamed Swaraj Dweep.

In 2024, the capital of the Union Territory, Port Blair, was renamed Sri Vijaya Puram, and 21 islands were named after Param Vir Chakra awardees. The Rashtrapati Bhavan's Mughal Garden was renamed Amrit Udyan.

"Through various initiatives, the Centre is dismantling colonial legacies," the official said.

Indian Army receives final batch of Apache helicopters

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Taking flight: The AH-64E Apache is regarded as the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter. AFP

The Indian Army on Tuesday received the final batch of three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, completing its six-unit fleet at the 451 Army Aviation Squadron based in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The helicopters landed at the Air Force Station, Hindon, in Ghaziabad before being inducted into the service.

The Apaches were contracted in February 2020 under a $600-million deal with the United States. The first batch of three helicopters was delivered earlier this year, and the arrival of the final batch will ensure full operationalisation of the Army's dedicated Apache squadron.

The six advanced attack helicopters will be stationed at Jodhpur. The squadron was raised in March last year to cater specifically to operational requirements on the western front.

The deliveries come against the backdrop of a telephonic conversation between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth in July this year, during which both sides reviewed ongoing and upcoming initiatives to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation. During the talks, the United States had assured India of delivering the first batch of three Apaches within two weeks and the remaining three by November this year. The first batch was delivered after a delay of nearly 15 months from the original delivery schedule of May 2024, primarily due to global supply chain disruptions.

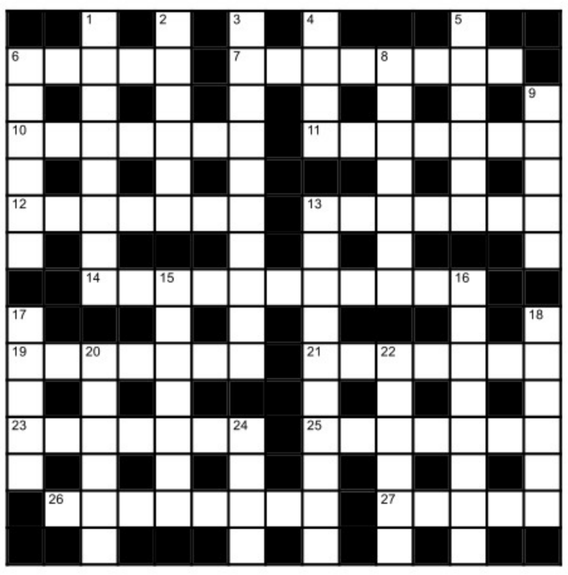
The AH-64E Apache is regarded as the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter.

TH CROSSWORD + 14667

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 A short distance to a new capital (5)
7 West averts calamity with change in leadership (8)
10 Nobility's bid to acquire jewelry occasionally (7)
11 Discharge private detective finally (7)
12 Almost in hostile region of central Tuscany (7)
13 College study, within one metre (7)
14 Source, in other words for a rapid, intense training (5,6)
19 Team refused, sorry to reject a novice (7)
21 Choose to block river? One follows (7)
23 Fail to incorporate law on milk product (7)
25 Take it and you would be upset (7)
26 Proceed before one finally leaves - they make you laugh (8)
27 Deadly, not able to sustain (5)

Down

1 One doesn't remember the middle name, in case lost (8)
2 Harry relocates to skip national service, to no avail (2,4)
3 Invitation to success - she is flirtatious (4-6)
4 Book on laws (4)
5 Hotel accommodating not even their trainee (6)
6 For a cap, lady came up with some wool (6)
8 He makes sense of animal eating fish (7)
9 It's safe to taper off (5)
13 Could be a sudden downpour (10)
15 One came up like a needle (7)
16 Transport at the door (8)
17 Bird bit off dog's head (5)
18 Space traveller's remote adjustment (6)
20 Discontented with Anglican Church, our host (6)
22 Infection causing bacteria gets energy after six (6)
24 Not good to stay up (4)

SUDOKU

7			8	5				
8		3				5		
		1			2	4		7
			1	3		9	6	
				7				
	3	6		8	9			
4		5	9			6		
		9				1		4
				6	4			5

No.SS6733 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	S	M	T	W	J	C		
T	A	I	P	E	I	O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L
N	U	N	S	N	U	S		
R	O	U	T	I	N	S	I	D	E	J	O	B	S
O	U	D	Y	I	A			
A	D	U	M	B	R	A	T	E	I	T	C	H	Y
L	E	H	A	S				
R	E	F	R	E	S	H	E	R	C	O	U	R	S	E
E	S	I	E	A				
E	N	E	M	Y	C	R	O	T	C	H	E	T	S
E	I	S	Y	A	U			
E	C	O	N	O	M	I	C	A	L	Z	E	R	O
T	D	E	I	E	A	D		
T	A	K	E	P	A	R	T	N	O	R	W	A	Y
R	R	R	E	E	D	Y		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	1	2	4	3	6	5	7
5	4	6	1	7	8	9	3	2
7	3	2	6	9	5	8	4	1
4	1	7	9	8	2	3	6	5
6	5	8	4	3	1	2	7	9
3	2	9	7	5	6	1	8	4
1	7	4	3	6	9	5	2	8
8	9	3	5	2	4	7	1	6
2	6	5	8	1	7	4	9	3

FAITH

Vyasa's contributions

In the first three yugas – Krita yuga, Treta Yuga and Dwapara yuga, the Vedas were just one body of knowledge, explained Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan in a discourse. But sage Vyasa divided Vedic literature into four, and gave it to us as Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharva Vedas. But why did he have to do this? People had a huge life span in the earlier yugas, but that is not the case in Kali yuga. The grasping power of those in Kali yuga is also less than that of those who lived in the first three yugas. So, it is for the benefit of those born in Kali, that Vyasa organised the Vedas.

Vyasa is an avatara of Lord Vishnu. The Vedas are like an ocean. Vyasa churned this ocean using his intelligence as the churning rod, and it was from this churning of the Vedas, that he came up with the Mahabharata. The Mahabharata contains information on the dharma which we have to follow. The Mahabharata was born to explain the Vedas, which are difficult to comprehend. The Mahabharata also has many stories and stories within stories. Vyasa wrote the 18 Puranas too. Vyasa had four disciples – Paila, Vaisampayana, Jaimini and Sumanthu, through whom he preserved the Vedas, the Itihasas and Puranas. But the Ramayana was written by Valmiki long before Vyasa, and Valmiki popularised the Itihasa through Lava and Kusa, the sons of Rama. How can we credit Vyasa with preservation of the Ramayana? The Ramayana took place in the Treta yuga. And people could have forgotten it or remembered it incompletely by the time Dwapara yuga arrived. Vyasa taught the Ramayana to his disciples, and thus may be said to be the preserver of the Ramayana also.

INBRIEF

Panel may moot easing rules for commodity derivatives

A panel set up by India's market regulator will recommend easing curbs on commodity derivatives and suggest steps to make it more attractive to institutional investors in a final report to be submitted early next year, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which saw a change of guard in March with Tuhin Kanta Pandey taking over as chief, set up the panel earlier this year. REUTERS

Private sector growth hits 10-month low in December

India's private sector activity expanded at its weakest pace in 10 months in December on a slowdown in new orders and hiring slowed to a near-standstill, according to HSBC's Flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) on Tuesday. The data suggest growth in Asia's third-largest economy remains strong but is slowing from the 8.2% growth reported in the latest quarter, and reinforce the view overall that inflation pressures remain weak. REUTERS

RBI allows HDFC Bank units to acquire 9.5% in IndusInd

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accorded approval to HDFC Bank Ltd. and its units to acquire "aggregate holding" of up to 9.50% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in IndusInd Bank. HDFC Bank is the promoter/sponsor of the group entities HDFC Mutual Fund, HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd., HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Ltd., HDFC Pension Fund Management Ltd. and HDFC Securities Ltd. The approval is valid till December 14, 2026

Rupee breaches 91 level, turns weakest Asian currency in '25

With India's growth strong and inflation contained, policymakers may be 'comfortable' allowing some depreciation, currency experts opined

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Currency cauldron: Uncertainty around the India-U.S. trade deal and the trade-war environment is weighing on markets. REUTERS

The rupee on Tuesday breached one more psychological mark by depreciating beyond 91 to 91.14 on the spot market against the U.S. dollar during intraday trade, making it one of the weakest major currencies globally this year and the weakest in Asia in 2025.

But it gained a bit during the day to close at 90.93 as compared with it's previous close of 90.78, down nearly 16 paise, a fresh all time low.

Anindya Banerjee, Head Currency and Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, said the pressure on the currency is being driven by three key factors: sentiment, capital flows, and the global macro backdrop. "The uncertainty around the pending India-U.S. trade deal and the broader trade-war environment is weighing on markets. From a flows perspective, foreign portfolio investors have pulled out close to $2.7 billion in the first two weeks of December alone, already among the largest monthly outflows this year, with the month still unfinished," he said.

He said globally rising U.S. bond yields and expectations of a Bank of Japan rate hike have triggered an unwinding of the yen carry trade.

"This has led to risk aversion across equities, credit, crypto, and some commodities, adding speculative pressure on emerging-market currencies, including the rupee," he added. Stating that the rupee may head towards 92, he said, RBI's relatively limited intervention so far appeared deliberate.

"With India's growth strong and inflation contained, policymakers may be comfortable allowing some currency depreciation, especially in a global trade-war environment where a weaker currency can support export competitiveness," he said.

"And on a day when the rupee has reached 91, I think it is important to also flag that we have been expecting [it] for a while, but not wide depreciation. And there are strategic and tactical decisions involved in the rupee," said Neelkanth Mishra, Chief Economist of Axis Bank, Head of Global Research at Axis Capital, and part time member at the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC).

"I think the RBI is letting the currency move around a bit. It's not a bad idea. We will have to see at what level they [would say] in the three-to-six-month basis, more than this volatility is not allowed. I think the mistake was in pegging it [rupee to $] at 83. Those past sins are still haunting us," he emphasised.

In a note, Finrex Treasury Advisors said the rupee made a new lifetime low as dollar buying continued with news that U.S. President Donald Trump had not agreed to the new proposals as he wanted agri and its products to be included in the proposal which India had not agreed to.

(With inputs from Ashokamithran T)

Lok Sabha passes Bill on 100% FDI in insurance

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

The Bill also empowers IRDAI to disgorge wrongful gains from insurers and intermediaries

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed an all important Bill that proposes to raise foreign direct investment (FDI) in insurance sector from 74% to 100% besides a clutch of other amendments to insurance laws amid protests from the opposition.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her reply to the discussion, said allowing 100% FDI would pave the way for further capital infusion, better technology as well as better insurance products. It would ease the process for global companies to foray into the Indian insurance market without domestic partners, she said, adding forming a joint venture is a mammoth task.

All Indian laws will apply to the companies. They will be regulated like other insurance entities, she said, seeking to allay apprehensions around changes the Bill is proposing to the Insurance Act, 1938; the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956; and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

The FDI limit for insurance companies was raised from 26% to 49% in 2015 and from 49% to 74% in 2021. On the amendment reducing net owned fund requirement for foreign reinsurance branches from ₹5,000 crore to ₹1,000 crore, she said the move would invite more reinsurers to the country for creating greater risk capacities and create level playing field for FRBs in domestic tariff area as opposed to IFSC.

Stating that government's priority is to strengthen the public sector insurance companies, she said ₹17,450 crore was infused in three public sector general insurance companies to strengthen their capital base. Listing of LIC, GIC Re and New India Assurance was also a step in the direction of boosting public insurers.

The Bill also empowers insurance regulator IRDAI to disgorge wrongful gains from insurers and intermediaries. As part of proposal to rationalise penalties to be imposed by IRDAI, the maximum limit of penalty on insurance intermediaries like in the case of insurers is to be increased from ₹1 crore to ₹10 crore to "act as a deterrent and encourage legal and regulatory compliance."

Terming the Bill a landmark reform, General Insurance Council Chairman and Bajaj General Insurance MD and CEO Tapan Singhel said by strengthening policyholder protection, improving transparency and empowering the regulator, the Bill builds trust at the core of the insurance system.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,680	-0.63
US Dollar	90.93	-0.16
Gold	1,35,900	-1.23
Brent oil	59.00	-2.33

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2247.90	-31.00
Adani Ports	1499.00	-13.60
Apollo Hosp	7051.50	-35.00
Asian Paints	2790.90	10.70
Axis Bank	1219.60	-65.20
Bajaj Auto	9008.00	68.00
Bajaj Finserv	2035.20	-35.30
Bajaj Finance	998.40	-14.30
Bharat Elec	388.00	-2.75
Bharti Airtel	2102.00	32.30
Cipla	1499.60	-8.40
Coal India	381.60	-2.85
Dr Reddys Lab	1276.90	-3.70
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7061.50	-60.00
Eternal Ltd.	284.45	-14.00
Grasim Ind	2799.10	-21.90
HCL Tech	1651.70	-32.30
HDFC Bank	994.30	-1.80
HDFC Life	764.35	-8.35
Hindalco	837.15	-10.70
Hind Unilever	2281.10	-12.40
ICICI Bank	1366.00	0.80
IntGlobeAvi	4974.00	8.50
Infosys	1592.90	-13.90
ITC	401.70	-0.60
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	295.25	-4.35
JSW Steel	1082.60	-32.20
Kotak Bank	2182.40	1.10
L&T	4063.80	-28.50
M&M	3621.00	13.00
Maruti Suzuki	16354.00	-61.00
Max Healthcare	1073.00	-12.40
NestleIndia	1240.60	-2.90
NTPC	321.00	-2.95
ONGC	232.21	-3.14
PowerGrid Corp	260.35	-1.85
Reliance Ind	1542.30	-13.90
SBI Life	2036.00	1.10
State Bank	961.15	-6.10
Shriram Finance Ltd.	848.40	-6.95
Sun Pharma	1781.30	-15.80
TataConsumerProduct	1169.90	12.50
Tata Steel	169.83	-3.04
TCS	3205.10	-25.10
Tech Mahindra	1578.20	2.80
Titan	3929.50	63.30
Tata Motors PV	345.45	-1.70
Trent Ltd.	4108.70	-0.30
UltraTech Cement	11528.00	-200.00
Wipro	259.22	-2.52

NCLT okays Vedanta Ltd.'s demerger plan

The NCLT Mumbai has approved the demerger of Vedanta Ltd., paving the way for its split into five sector-specific entities across aluminium, oil and gas, power, and iron and steel.

Singareni, Altmin ally for battery grade lithium refinery in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Singareni Collieries Company (SCCL) and Hyderabad-based Altmin have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to set up India's first large-scale battery-grade lithium refinery here.

The project envisages an investment of ₹2,250 crore and the establishment of a 30,000-tonne- per-annum lithium carbonate refinery in Telangana.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy at the MoU signing ceremony.

The refinery is targeted to commence operations by 2027 and poised to play a strategic role in supporting India's rapidly-growing electric vehicle and energy storage ecosystem. It will position the State at the forefront of India's critical minerals and clean energy transition, the Telangana Government said. The MoU was signed in the presence of CM A. Revanth Reddy at the recently concluded Telangana Rising Summit in Hyderabad.

Under the partnership, SCCL, jointly owned by the Government of Telangana and the Government of India and Altmin would form a joint venture to localise lithium refining in India and bring globally bench marked technology into the country. The project includes plans to secure long-term raw material supply via overseas mineral assets, strengthening India's energy security.

It will be the first-of-its-kind project in India establishing large-scale, domestic refining capacity for battery-grade lithium.

Govt. to sell up to 3% stake in IOB to raise ₹2,100 crore

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government has decided to divest up to 3% stake in State-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) via an Offer for Sale (OFS) commencing on Wednesday.

At the current market price, the government would be able to garner about ₹2,100 crore via stake sale. IOB shares closed at ₹36.57 per unit, down 1.08% on the BSE on Tuesday. "Offer for Sale in Indian Overseas Bank opens tomorrow for Non-Retail investors. Retail investors can bid on Thursday," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Arunish Chawla said.

Sugar production shows an increase

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE/NEW DELHI

Sugar production from October 1, 2025 to December 15 saw a 28% increase compared with the same period in 2024.

As per Indian Sugar and Bioenergy Manufacturers Association, sugar production touched 78.25 lakh tonne in the first 75 days of the current sugar marketing season as against 61.28 lakh tonne last year.

Sugar production is up in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. However, the current ex-mill sugar price has fallen to ₹3,600 to ₹3,660 a quintal in Maharashtra.

Prices have dropped in all the major sugar producing States.

The prices have dropped in all the major sugar producing States, the ISMA said. Meanwhile, ISMA Director General Deepak Ballani told *The Hindu* it was suggested the Centre raise ethanol blending from the present 20%, to 22% and thereafter to 25% in a 'phased manner.'

B. Sairam named chief of Coal India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

State-owned miner Coal India appointed B. Sairam as their new chairman and managing director effective Monday.

He would succeed Sanoj Kumar Jha, also the Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Coal, who held interim charge of the State-owned miner following the superannuation of P. M. Prasad October-end.

Prior to his latest appointment at the Maharatna, Mr. Sairam served as the CMD of Northern Coalfield Ltd.

He also served as the director (technical) at Coal India's subsidiary Central Coalfield Ltd.

Coal output rises

Meanwhile, overall coal production in India rose 2.06% in November when assessed with the comparable period last year, although it fell slightly short of the stipulated target for the month, according to provisional data from the Coal Ministry. Power generated in November declined about 5.8% compared with the previous month, owing to moderate climatic conditions reducing demand for appliances.

Production in November this year stood at 92.68 million tonne (MT) compared with 90.81 MT in the same period last year.

राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय एवं समुद्री अनुसंधान केन्द्र
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR AND OCEAN RESEARCH
Vasco-da-Gama, Goa-403804

Notice Inviting Tender

Time Charter of Oceanographic Research Vessel
(Ref No: NCPOR/MGE/HSS/01 dated 16 December 2025)

The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) invites tenders for the time charter of an Oceanographic Research Vessel capable of independent survey and exploration activities in the Central Indian Ridge, Southwest Indian Ridge, Carlsberg Ridge, and within the Indian EEZ for a period of 300 days ± 60 days.

Important Dates:

The last date for seeking clarifications	: 26-12-2025
Pre-Bid conference	: 30-12-2025
Bid Submission End Date	: 14-01-2026/1600hrs

For detailed guidelines and submission procedures, visit the NCPOR website **http://www.ncpor.res.in** OR the CPP portal **https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app.**

विज्ञापन सं : NCPOR/18/2025

Sd/-
For & on Behalf of Director, NCPOR

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer -1, Project Implementation Unit,
9th Floor, Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru – 560011.

No : EE-1/GBA/PIU/TEND/03/2025-26 Date: 16.12.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Only through KPP Portal)

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Executive Engineer -1, Project Implementation Unit invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD /Railways / MES /National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderer's to qualify for award of the contract (Standard Tender Document Kw4). Executive Engineer-1, PIU on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, GBA, Bengaluru. **2.**Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement portal. **3.** Other details can be seen in the tender document.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Amount put to Tender work (Rs in Lakhs)/ EMD amount in Rs.
1	Construction of percolation pit / well in order to enhance the Ground water table to SWD in Mahadevapura Consituency. Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) : **Rs. 45.00 Lakhs,** EMD : **90,000/-. Period of Completion : 6 Months.**
2	Providing fencing along the SWD at identified critical locations to avoid solid waste being thrown to SWD in East. West. South. Yelahanka, Mahadevapura. Bommanahalli, RR Nagara and Dasarahalli zone. (Call-3) Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) : **Rs. 385.00 Lakhs,** EMD : **5.80 Lakhs. Period of Completion : 9 Months.**

Calendar of events:
1.Tender documents may be downloaded Through E-Portal From **18.12.2025**
2. Pre bid meeting : **23-12-2025 at 4.00 PM** Office of the Chief Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor, Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011.
3. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **30.12.2025** upto **4:00 P.M.**
4. Opening of technical bid : **31.12.2025 at 4.30 Hrs.**
5. Validity of Tender: **: 90 Days from last date of receipts of Tender**

Sd/- Executive Engineer - 1, Project Implementation Unit
Greater Bengaluru Authority

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.

Short Term Tender Notification- 24/2025-26 Date:10-12-2025(Call-2) **Ref:** Short Term Tender Notification-18/2025-26 Date: 23-10-2025

(Two document System & KPPP System only)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.P.P.P on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors such as KPWD Class-I/ CPWD Class-1 & Above registration. The tenders are required to submit tenders only through K.P.P. portal of Govt of Karnataka (http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

"Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Tank Filling Scheme (Head Works consisting of construction of Barrage, Intake trough with forebay, Jack well cum pump house, Vertical Turbine Pumps coupled to Motors, Pump house electrical works, Necessary valves, Delivery Pipe, Manifold system, electrical panel, soft starter, capacitors, 11 kV transformer, 11/0.433 KV sub-station, 11 kV power line and 11 kV Terminal bay, Rising Main, Pressure Distribution) for Filling up 32 tanks of Gudavi and other MI/ZP tanks in SorabaTaluk by lifting water from Varada River near Gudavi Village including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years after successful completion of work for GUDAVI TANK FILLING SCHEME on Turn-Key Basis.". (INDENT No: 3316) Work Amount put to tender Rs. 42.06 Crores and EMD Rs.0.36 Crores

1) Date of downloading & submission of tender (through KPPP) will be on 16.12.2025 to 15.01.2026 up to 4.00 PM 2) Date of Pre bid meeting:24.12.2025 @11.00AM.(O/o Chief Engineer, KNNL, UTP Zone Shimogga 3) Opening of technical bid will be on 16.01.2026 @ 5.00 PM 4) Financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid.

For more details visit website from date-16.12.2025 at (http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

Sd/- Executive Engineer. KNNL, DRP Division shikaripura
DIPR/smg/Ksmca/25-26/79/12/1402

WASHINGTON

U.S. military kills eight in eastern Pacific strikes on alleged drug boats

AFP

Strikes on three alleged drug-trafficking vessels in the eastern Pacific Ocean killed eight people on Monday, according to the U.S. military. Since early September, the U.S. military under Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth has targeted alleged drug-smuggling boats, destroying at least 26 vessels and killing at least 95 people. AFP

LAHORE

Pakistani court awards 35-year jail term to top leader of banned TLP

AP

Zaheerul Hassan Shah, Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan's deputy chief, has been sentenced to 35 years in jail by an anti-terrorist court for inciting people to "behead" Pakistan's then-Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa, in July 2024. Qazi Faiz Isa had been criticised by extremists after he granted bail to an Ahmadi suspect accused of blasphemy. PTI

WASHINGTON

U.S. designates Colombia's largest drug-trafficking gang as terrorists

AP

The United States said on Tuesday it was designating Colombia's largest drug-trafficking gang, Clan del Golfo, as terrorists, just as the group engaged in talks with the country's leftist government. "We are committed to denying funding and resources to these terrorists," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. AFP

RAMALLAH

Israeli settler kills 16-year-old Palestinian in West Bank: mayor

AP

An Israeli settler shot dead a 16-year-old Palestinian in Tuqu' on Tuesday after the funeral of another teenager, the town's mayor said. "Today, after the funeral of 16-year-old Ammar Sabah, who was killed yesterday by the Israeli army, a a settler shot 16-year-old Muheeb Jibril in the head," Tuqu' mayor said. REUTERS

'We are closer now than ever to a peace deal,' says Trump on Ukraine

Ukraine's Zelenskyy says proposals being negotiated with the U.S. could be finalised within days and then American envoys will present them to the Kremlin; Russia claimed it was in full control of the key city of Kupiansk in northeastern Ukraine

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says proposals being negotiated with U.S. officials for a deal to end the fighting in Russia's nearly 4-year-old invasion of his country could be finalised within days, after which American envoys will present them to the Kremlin before possible further meetings in the U.S. next weekend.

A draft peace plan discussed with the U.S. during talks in Berlin on Monday is "very workable", Mr. Zelenskyy told presspersons hours after the discussions.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks as Keir Starmer, Emmanuel Macron and Donald Trump listen during a meeting in August. AP

He cautioned, however, that some key issues – notably what happens to Ukrainian territory occupied by Russian forces – remain unresolved.

The proposal for security guarantees will be based on Western help in keeping the Ukrainian army strong, an official from a NATO nation said.

"Europeans will lead a multinational and multi-domain force to strengthen those troops and to secure Ukraine from the land, sea and air, and the United States will lead a ceasefire monitoring and verification mechanism, with international participation," the official said.

American officials said on Monday there's consensus from Ukraine and Europe on about 90% of the U.S.-authored peace plan.

U.S. President Donald Trump said: "I think we're closer now than we have been, ever" to a peace settlement.

Plenty of potential pitfalls remain, notably the land issue. Mr. Zelenskyy reiterated that Kyiv rules out recognising Moscow's control over any part of the Donbas, in eastern Ukraine made up of Luhansk and Donetsk.

Meanwhile, Russia said it was in control of the key city of Kupiansk in northeast Ukraine. "The city of Kupiansk is under the control of the Russian Sixth Army," Leonid Sharov, head of the Zapad military group, told state news agency TASS.

Indian arms makers held meetings in Russia: sources

Reuters
NEW DELHI

At least half a dozen executives from top Indian arms makers, including Adani Defence and Bharat Forge, attended rare meetings in Russia this year to discuss potential joint ventures, three people familiar with the matter said.

The meetings took place during the first visit of India's defence business leaders to Russia since Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The visit by the defence business leaders had not previously been reported.

The Indian government is seeking to re-orient its decades-old defence ties with Russia to focus on joint development of weapons.

The meetings discussed the potential for manufacturing of spares for MiG-29 fighter jet. PTI

The talks in Moscow were held on the sidelines of a visit by an Indian defence-industrial delegation on October 29-30, headed by India's Defence Production Secretary Sanjeev Kumar, that was aimed at laying the ground for Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India on December 4-5.

Spokespeople for Adani Group and Bharat Forge denied that executives from any of their companies attended the meetings. India's Defence Ministry and the other firms cited by the sources did not respond to requests for comment.

The meetings discussed the potential for manufacturing of spares for Mikoyan MiG-29 fighter jet, and other Russian-origin air defence and weapon systems, as well as a Russian proposal to set up production units in India for development of equipment that could potentially also be exported to Moscow, said two of the sources and another industry executive.

They spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the sensitivity of the matter.

Mass shooting duo driven by 'Islamic State ideology': PM

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

A father and son were driven by "Islamic State ideology" when they fired on crowds at Bondi Beach in one of Australia's deadliest mass shootings, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Tuesday.

Sajid Akram and his son Naveed opened fire on people thronging the famous beach for the Jewish festival of Hanukkah on Sunday, killing 15 people and wounding dozens more.

Authorities said the attack was designed to sow panic among the nation's Jews, but have so far given little detail about the gunmen's deeper motivations.

Anthony Albanese

Mr. Albanese gave one of the first hints that the pair had been radicalised by an "ideology of hate".

The pair travelled to the Philippines before the shootings and authorities are investigating whether they met Islamist extremists during the trip, Australian media reported.

Cambodia must announce ceasefire 'first', says Thailand

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Thailand said on Tuesday that Cambodia must be first to announce a truce to halt fighting between the two nations after more than a week of deadly clashes in a reignited border conflict.

"As the aggressor onto Thai territory, Cambodia must announce the ceasefire first," Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maratee Nalita Andamo told presspersons in Bangkok, adding that Cambodia must also cooperate in demining efforts at the border "sincerely".

Renewed fighting between the Southeast Asian neighbours this month has killed at least 32 people, including soldiers and civilians, and displaced around 8 lakh people, officials said.

Cambodia did not immediately respond to Thailand's statement.

Cambodia, which is outgunned and outspent by Bangkok's military, said on Monday that Thailand's forces had expanded their attack "deep into" Cambodian territory.

The ongoing conflict stems from a territorial dispute over the colonial-era demarcation of their 800-kilometre border and a smattering of ancient temple ruins situated on the frontier.

Trump sues BBC for $10 bn, accusing it of defamation over editing speech

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON/LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump filed a lawsuit on Monday seeking $10 billion in damages from the BBC, accusing the British broadcaster of defamation as well as deceptive and unfair trade practices.

The 33-page lawsuit accuses the BBC of broadcasting a "false, defamatory, deceptive, disparaging, inflammatory, and malicious depiction of President Trump," calling it "a brazen attempt to interfere in and influence" the 2024 U.S. presidential election.

It accused the BBC of "splicing together two entirely separate parts of President Trump's speech on January 6, 2021" in order to "intentionally misrepresent the meaning of what President Trump said."

The lawsuit, filed in a Florida court, seeks $5 billion in damages for defamation and $5 billion for unfair trade practices. REUTERS

The lawsuit, filed in a Florida court, seeks $5 billion in damages for defamation and $5 billion for unfair trade practices.

The broadcaster had apologised last month to Mr. Trump over the edit of the January 6 speech. But the publicly funded BBC rejected claims it had defamed him, after Mr. Trump threatened legal action.

BBC chairman Samir Shah had called it an "error of judgment," which triggered the resignations of the BBC's top executive and its head of news.

The speech took place before some of Mr. Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol as Congress was poised to certify President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election that Mr. Trump falsely alleged was stolen from him.

Meanwhile, spokesperson for the British broadcaster confirmed to AFP that the BBC will defend itself against Mr. Trump's lawsuit. "As we have made clear previously, we will be defending this case. We are not going to make further comment on ongoing legal proceedings," a BBC spokesperson said.

SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES-TIRUPATI
(A UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED BY AN ACT OF A.P. STATE LEGISLATURE)
TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tenders are invited through e-tendering process in ap-eprocurement platform (Two Bid System) for procurement of Medical Equipment, Personal Computers, CCTV Cameras, rate contract for Network Accessories and Lab equipment on Reagent Rental basis. For details log on to the website: https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in & https://svimstpt.ap.nic.in The Director-cum-VC reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.
DONATE LIBERALLY TO "SVIMS GENERAL DONATIONS SCHEME" SVIMS ACCOUNT NO.62121045670, SBI, IFSC CODE: SBIN0020926, "80G BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE SCHEME"
Roc.No.P1/19/eprocurement/PD/SVIMS/10, Dated:08.12.2025 **DIRECTOR - CUM - VC**

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Executive Engineer, Special Buildings Division-I, Public Works Department, Puducherry invites on behalf of the President of India, online bids for the following work(s):
Tender No. **40/SBD1/2025-26, Dt:16/12/2025.** Name of Work: **Proposed e-Bus Charging Station and Depot at Mettupalayam in Puducherry.** Estimated Cost **₹10,37,59,874/-** (inclusive of GST @ 18%) EMD: **₹20,37,599/-,** Period of Completion: **15 (Fifteen) months** (including Monsoon Period).
e-Tender processing fee: **₹1500/-** + GST @ 5%. Last date and time for submission of bid is **05/01/2026 4.00 P.M.** The date of tender opening **06/01/2026 10.30 A.M.**
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **www.pudutenders.gov.in.**
No: 633/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
Brief E- TENDER NOTICE: CORRIGENDUM-A [SALE EXTENSION]
No:SHAR:CMG: CIVIL: MAINT: E-PT-09(A)/25-26 **Dt: 16.12.2025**
Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-09/25-26 dated: 21.11.2025 "AMC for Civil, PH, Water supply etc at PHC-I area for the year 2026-27". (**T/C-25-042, Est. cost ₹ 67.54 Lakhs**); "Term Contract for Civil works @ SLP areas, SDSC SHAR". (**T/C-25-043, Est. cost ₹ 100.00 Lakhs**);
Sale period extended up to 29.12.2025
Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियान्त्रिकी विभाग, वृत झुन्झुनूं
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 23/2025-26 से 29/2025-26

निविदा की कुल लागत (रुपये लाखों में)	1570.00 लाख (कुल 07 कार्य, सबसे बड़े कार्य की लागत 250.00 लाख)
कूल धरोहर राशि	अनुमानित लागत का 2 प्रतिशत 0.5 प्रतिशत
निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 06.01.2026 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 06.01.2026 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ई-ग्रास सिस्टम के माध्यम से जमा चालान अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 06.01.2026 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तारीख एवं समय	दिनांक 07.01.2026 प्रातः 11.00 बजे से

निविदा से संबंधित अन्य आवश्यक विवरण डीआईपीआर की वेबसाईट www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, sppp एवं वेबसाईट http://wwww.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

NIT No.	UBN No.	NIT No.	UBN No.
23/2025-26	PHE2526WSRC09632	27/2025-26	PHE2526WSRC09638
24/2025-26	PHE2526WSRC09634	28/2025-26	PHE2526WSRC09639
25/2025-26	PHE2526WSRC09635	29/2025-26	PHE2526WSRC09640
26/2025-26	PHE2526WSRC09637		

DIPR/C/18439/25
(राजपाल सिंह) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
स्वास्थ्य अभियान्त्रिकी विभाग, वृत झुन्झुनूं

KARNATAKA STATE NATURAL DISASTER MONITORING CENTRE (KSNDMC)
(A Regd. Society of Govt. of Karnataka)
Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064. Ph.: 080-67355000
No. KSNDMC/ADM/MISC/50/2025-WFTG Date: 16.12.2025
Notification Regarding Appointment of Technical Director for KSNDMC
Subject: Advertisement for appointment of Technical Director for KSNDMC under the Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP) for implementation of the World Bank funded Project
As a part of the World Bank funded Project being implemented by the SPMU, Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), the Revenue Department is seeking appointment of a Technical Director for KSNDMC to oversee the overall operations of the KWSRP Project. KSNDMC, an Autonomous body under Revenue Department (Disaster Management), Govt. of Karnataka is inviting Applications from eligible candidates for the post of Technical Director, KSNDMC. The remuneration for external candidates (who are not working in government sector) will be in the range of **Rs. 2.0 Lakhs - Rs. 3.0 Lakhs.** Pay scales shall be protected to the eligible internal candidates (who are serving in the State/ Central Government or State/Central Government Institutions/ Universities) as per their existing pay structure, on a deputation basis.
The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), eligibility criteria and other conditions for engaging as Technical Director at KSNDMC are available at KSNDMC web portal **www.ksndmc.org.**
The Applicants may note the following:
- Applications along with relevant supporting documents should be submitted through Registered Post / Courier or in Person, **on or before 05.00 pm of 05.01.2026.**
- Applications to be sent through proper channel to **"The Office of Director, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru- 560 064".**
- Incomplete applications will not be considered and KSNDMC reserves the right to reject any application, without assigning any reason, whatsoever.
- The qualified candidates will be shortlisted and called for Personal Interview for final selection to the post.
- For further queries, you may contact the Administrative Officer at **9611990357.**

Sd/- Director, KSNDMC

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through KPP portal)
BESCOM invites tenders for creation of necessary Electrical Infrastructure for providing Street Light metering along with Timer Switch under item wise unit rate fixed contract on percentage quoting basis (BESCOM will supply ACSR Rabbit Conductor) in Rural areas of the following Sub-Division of BRAZ and CTAZ of BESCOM.

Sl. No.	Name of the Sub-division	Tender Enquiry No.
1	Malur	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT733
2	Bangarpete	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT734
3	Nelamangala	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT735
4	Dabaspete	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT736
5	Tiptur	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT737
6	Nittur	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT738

Time Schedule: Availability of Bid documents: 22.12.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs onwards. **Last date for seeking clarifications:** 03.01.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting:** 05.01.2026 @ 11:30 Hrs. **Venue:** Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Belaku Bhavana, BESCOM, Corporate Office, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru -01. **Last date for bid submission:** 23.01.2026 @ 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids:** 27.01.2026 @ 15:30 Hrs.
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
KPP Portal Help Desk:
Phone No: +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777,
E-mail: support@ eprochelpdesk.com
Aspiring bidders should be registered on KPP Portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during working hours.
Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
Chief General Manager, Electy. Projects, BESCOM

ADVERTISEMENT

Noida International Airport

CM Yogi Adityanath's Dream Project

"Noida International Airport will give a new direction to global connectivity and become a major driver of economic growth for Western Uttar Pradesh."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

A Global Gateway Rooted in Indian Heritage

Swiss efficiency meets Indian hospitality as Uttar Pradesh prepares to welcome the world

■ Swiss efficiency ■ Indian hospitality ■ Cultural grandeur

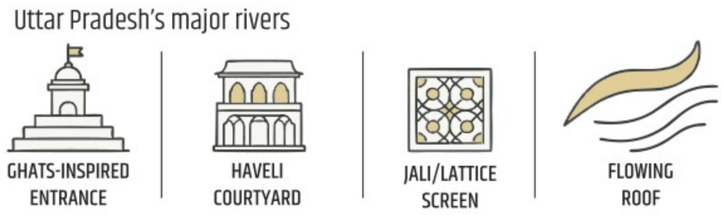
Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath's dream project,** the **Noida International Airport (NIA)** at Jewar, is nearing inauguration and is poised to become one of India's most iconic aviation landmarks. Designed to reflect the **cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh** while delivering **Swiss efficiency and global standards,** NIA will offer passengers a smooth, fast, and memorable journey from arrival to departure. With cutting-edge technology, sustainable infrastructure, and people-centric development, Noida International Airport is set to emerge as a **new gateway to India** and a powerful engine of growth for **Western Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR**.

ARCHITECTURE ROOTED IN INDIAN HERITAGE

Inspired by India's timeless heritage

Noida International Airport's architecture draws entirely from **traditional Indian design,** offering travelers an immediate sense of Uttar Pradesh's identity.

- The **grand entrance** is inspired by the iconic **ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar,** reflecting the region's spiritual and historical legacy
- A **haveli-style courtyard** creates a welcoming, open environment inspired by classical Indian homes
- **Lattice screens (jaalis)** regulate natural light and airflow while enhancing aesthetic appeal
- The **white flowing roof** symbolizes the serene, continuous movement of Uttar Pradesh's major rivers



Together, these elements create a **stress-free, culturally immersive, and modern travel experience.**

AIRPORT AT A GLANCE

- One of the **largest airports in India**
- Spread across **5,000 hectares**
- **50 million passengers** traffic capacity
- Initial capacity: **1.2 crore passengers annually**
- **₹1,800 crore MRO & Cargo Hub**
- Expected **Aerotropolis development**
- Developed under **PPP model**
- Collaboration: **NAIL & Zurich Airport**

5,000 Hectares	50 Million Passengers
1.2 Crore Passengers/Year	₹1,800 Cr MRO & Cargo Hub
PPP Mode	Zurich Airport Partnership

SWISS EFFICIENCY, DIGITAL-FIRST EXPERIENCE

Designed as a **future-ready airport**, NIA will offer a fully **digital and seamless passenger journey:**

- **Self bag-drop machines**
- **Self-boarding gates**
- **Biometric-based DigiYatra at all entry points**
- Smart signage and intuitive digital interfaces
- Fully digitized processes to minimize waiting time

Passenger comfort, speed, and efficiency remain at the core of airport operations.

PREMIUM SHOPPING & CULTURAL DISCOVERY HUB

Noida International Airport will be more than a transit hub, it will be a **cultural showcase**.

Retail & F&B Highlights

- Authentic flavors of **Uttar Pradesh and India**
- Global cuisines under one roof
- Duty-free and premium outlets
- Traditional crafts and souvenirs

Signature UP Products

- Banarasi silk
- Chikankari
- Attar
- Handicrafts & artwork

MRO Facility: Powering Uttar Pradesh's Aviation Future

An MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul) facility is where aircraft, engines, and components are:

• Maintained (routine checks) • Repaired (fault rectification)

• Overhauled (deep technical servicing)It is a core backbone of aviation operations, ensuring aircraft safety, efficiency, and longer life.

1. **Major Industrial Boost**
   • Positions UP as an aviation services hub
   • Attracts global airlines, OEMs & leasing companies
   • Strengthens the aerotropolis ecosystem around airports (like Jewar)
2. **High-Quality Employment Generation**
   • Creates thousands of skilled jobs
   • Aircraft engineers • Technicians • Safety inspectors • Logistics & support staff • Indirect jobs in hospitality, transport, housing, training institutes
3. **Big Cost Savings for Indian Airlines**
   • Currently, airlines send aircraft abroad (Singapore, UAE, Europe)
   • Local MRO means: Lower foreign exchange outflow, Faster turnaround time, Reduced maintenance costs.
4. **Global Investment & Technology Inflow**
   • Encourages FDI in aviation services • Brings advanced technology, global best practices • Facilitates skill transfer to local workforce
5. **Supports Airport-Led Regional Development**
   • Strengthens airports like Noida International Airport (Jewar)
   • Complements: Cargo hubs, Logistics parks, Manufacturing & leasing clusters, Turns Western UP into a long-term economic engine

From Flying Abroad for Repairs to Becoming a Global Aviation Hub.

GREEN AIRPORT SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

SUSTAINABLE & NET-ZERO READY

Sustainability is integrated into every stage of development and operations:

- Extensive use of **solar power & off-grid wind systems**
- **Rainwater harvesting**
- Advanced waste management
- Modern sewage treatment plants
- **EV charging stations** across the campus
- Architecture maximizing natural light & ventilation

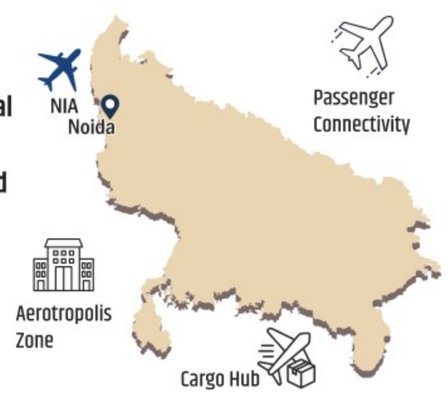
With a focus on **net-zero emissions**, NIA sets a benchmark for **environmentally responsible infrastructure.**

CONNECTIVITY & GLOBAL REACH

CONNECTING WESTERN UP TO THE WORLD

Strategically located, Noida International Airport will:

- Strengthen **Delhi-NCR's global connectivity**
- Serve as a major **aviation and logistics hub**
- Support **cargo, MRO, and aerotropolis development**
- Act as a catalyst for regional industrial growth



Built under the visionary leadership of **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath,** Noida International Airport stands as a symbol of **modern infrastructure, inclusive growth, cultural pride, and environmental responsibility.** As it nears inauguration, NIA is set to redefine how the world experiences Uttar Pradesh, **efficient, welcoming, and future-ready.**

Noida International Airport

Connecting culture, commerce & the world

A BG-BGE

WITHIN BUDGET

We were quite happy with the price: KKR CEO on buying Green

FILE PHOTO

First of all, we are very happy [to get Cameron Green]. We were quite happy with the price. We were very keen [on buying him], but not so attached. If we felt it would have affected the rest of the auction, we would've let Green go. Fortunately, it came within the range we were looking at — Venky Mysore, CEO, KKR.

FINGERS CROSSED

We're looking forward to hopefully playing in Bengaluru: Mo Bobat

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

As for the tragedy at the Chinnaswamy Stadium [stampede], I don't think I have much to comment on that at this stage. I think everybody knows how sad that incident was. We're looking forward to hopefully playing in Bengaluru and being able to get amongst our fans and people — Mo Bobat, Director of Cricket, RCB.

LENDING DEPTH

Mumbai Indians got lucky with de Kock, says Jayawardene

FILE PHOTO

Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene expressed his delight after the franchise acquired South Africa wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock for his base price of ₹1 crore. "We were lucky. Quinny was part of MI in the past. Wanted to ensure we have depth in that crucial spot at the top of the order. Gives us flexibility in the playing XI".

VALUABLE ADDITION

We rate Venky highly, it's great to have him on board: Flower

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

For two years running we've battled KKR for Venky (Venkatesh Iyer). We rate him highly, so it's great to have him on board. We met him, chatted, and loved his competitive spirit and leadership qualities for the dressing room and field. Looking forward to working with him — Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach Andy Flower.

Green shoots up the IPL overseas charts; Prashant, Kartik strike gold

KKR spends a whopping ₹25.20 crore to sign the Australia all-rounder; CSK breaks the bank to buy the uncapped players for ₹14.20 crore each

AUCTION

Amol Karhadkar
ABU DHABI

Cameron Green lived up to the billing as he emerged the costliest overseas player in the Indian Premier League (IPL) – and the third-highest overall – at the mini-auction ahead of the 2026 season.

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) outbid Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to secure the Australia all-rounder for a whopping ₹25.20 crore at the Etihad Arena here on Tuesday.

Armed with the biggest purse, KKR also snapped up Sri Lankan slinger Matheesha Pathirana for ₹18 crore while Liam Livingstone made a late splash in the recall round, with Sunrisers Hyderabad spending ₹13 crore on the England all-rounder.

The flavour

Yet, the auction will be remembered less for the marquee overseas buys and more for a historic windfall for domestic uncapped players.

CSK shattered records by acquiring Uttar Pradesh all-rounder Prashant Veer and 19-year-old Rajasthan wicketkeeper-batter Kartik Sharma – who lit up the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy – for ₹14.20 crore each.

The duo jointly became the most expensive uncapped players in IPL history, comfortably eclipsing the previous record of ₹10 crore by pacer Avesh Khan at the 2022 mega auction.

Paradigm shift

Remarkably, Prashant and Kartik fetched more than 47 times their base price of ₹30 lakh, underlining a clear shift in the franchises thinking towards backing domestic talent.

That trend was further reinforced when Delhi Capitals secured Jammu & Kashmir swing bowler Auqib Nabi for ₹8.40 crore while Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) signed Madhya Pradesh left-arm pace-bowling all-rounder Mangesh Yadav for ₹5.20 crore. All four uncapped Indians featured among the top 15 buys of the auction, prompting CSK head coach Stephen Fleming to remark that "the T20 babies are coming to the fore."

Among established Indian names, Venkatesh Iyer and Ravi Bishnoi – two of the most high-profile releases ahead of the auction – also commanded a high price.

Rajasthan Royals brought in Bishnoi as its lead spinner for ₹7.20 crore while RCB finally landed Venkatesh Iyer after being outbid by KKR last season, holding firm until KKR withdrew at ₹7 crore.

In all, 77 players were signed at the auction as franchises spent ₹215.45 crore combined.

Not surprisingly, KKR emerged as the biggest spender, having entered the auction with a significant advantage over its nearest rival CSK (₹64.30 crore in its purse as compared to the Chennai outfit's ₹43.40 crore).

CSK added nine players to its roster, including experienced batter Sarfaraz Khan.

Rajasthan Royals bought Bishnoi for ₹7.20 crore
In all, 77 players were signed at the auction as franchises spent ₹215.45 crore combined

TATA IPL AUCTION 2026
Moneyball
The 77 players — 48 Indian and 29 overseas — who made the cut at the IPL 2026 mini-auction at the Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday
CAMERON GREEN
PRASHANT VEER
KARTIK SHARMA
TATA IPL AUCTION 2026
BCCI

Player	Team	Base	Sold
Cameron Green	KKR	2.00 Cr	**25.20 Cr**
Matheesha Pathirana	KKR	2.00 Cr	**18.00 Cr**
Kartik Sharma	CSK	30.00 L	**14.20 Cr**
Prashant Veer	CSK	30.00 L	**14.20 Cr**
Liam Livingstone	SRH	2.00 Cr	**13.00 Cr**
Mustafizur Rahman	KKR	2.00 Cr	**9.20 Cr**
Josh Inglis	LSG	2.00 Cr	**8.60 Cr**
Auqib Nabi	DC	30.00 L	**8.40 Cr**
Ravi Bishnoi	RR	2.00 Cr	**7.20 Cr**
Jason Holder	GT	2.00 Cr	**7.00 Cr**
Venkatesh Iyer	RCB	2.00 Cr	**7.00 Cr**
Rahul Chahar	CSK	1.00 Cr	**5.20 Cr**
Mangesh Yadav	RCB	30.00 L	**5.20 Cr**
Ben Dwarshuis	PBKS	1.00 Cr	**4.40 Cr**
Pathum Nissanka	DC	75.00 L	**4.00 Cr**
Tejasvi Dahiya	KKR	30.00 L	**3.00 Cr**
Jack Edwards	SRH	50.00 L	**3.00 Cr**
Cooper Connolly	PBKS	2.00 Cr	**3.00 Cr**
Mukul Choudhary	LSG	30.00 L	**2.60 Cr**
Adam Milne	RR	2.00 Cr	**2.40 Cr**
Akshat Raghuwanshi	LSG	30.00 L	**2.20 Cr**
Matt Henry	CSK	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Lungi Ngidi	DC	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Rachin Ravindra	KKR	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Tom Banton	GT	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Ben Duckett	DC	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**

Player	Team	Base	Sold
Akeal Hosein	CSK	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Anrich Nortje	LSG	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Wanindu Hasaranga	LSG	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Kyle Jamieson	DC	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Finn Allen	KKR	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Jacob Duffy	RCB	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
David Miller	DC	2.00 Cr	**2.00 Cr**
Matthew Short	CSK	1.50 Cr	**1.50 Cr**
Tim Seifert	KKR	1.50 Cr	**1.50 Cr**
Salil Arora	SRH	30.00 L	**1.50 Cr**
Quinton de Kock	MI	1.00 Cr	**1.00 Cr**
Akash Deep	KKR	1.00 Cr	**1.00 Cr**
Naman Tiwari	LSG	30.00 L	**1.00 Cr**
Ravi Singh	RR	30.00 L	**95.00 L**
Sushant Mishra	RR	30.00 L	**90.00 L**
Ashok Sharma	GT	30.00 L	**90.00 L**
Luke Wood	GT	75.00 L	**75.00 L**
Kuldeep Sen	RR	75.00 L	**75.00 L**
Sarfaraz Khan	CSK	75.00 L	**75.00 L**
Prithvi Shaw	DC	75.00 L	**75.00 L**
Zak Foulkes	CSK	75.00 L	**75.00 L**
Shivam Mavi	SRH	75.00 L	**75.00 L**
Jordan Cox	RCB	75.00 L	**75.00 L**
Rahul Tripathi	KKR	75.00 L	**75.00 L**
Aman Khan	CSK	30.00 L	**40.00 L**
Sahil Parakh	DC	30.00 L	**30.00 L**

Player	Team	Base	Sold
Kanishk Chouhan	RCB	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Aman Rao	RR	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Mayank Rawat	MI	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Vishal Nishad	PBKS	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Brijesh Sharma	RR	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Daksh Kamra	KKR	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Vihaan Malhotra	RCB	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Vicky Ostwal	RCB	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Sarthak Ranjan	KKR	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Prashant Solanki	KKR	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Karthik Tyagi	KKR	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Prithvi Raj Yarra	GT	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Mohammed Izhar	MI	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Danish Malewar	MI	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Vignesh Puthur	RR	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Yash Raj Punja	RR	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Satvik Deswal	RCB	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Krains Fuletra	SRH	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Praful Hinge	SRH	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Amit Kumar	SRH	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Onkar Tarmale	SRH	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Sakib Hussain	SRH	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Shivang Kumar	SRH	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Atharva Ankolekar	MI	30.00 L	**30.00 L**
Pravin Dubey	PBKS	30.00 L	**30.00 L**

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Uncapped Indians rake in the moolah

Domestic uncapped crorepatis

Kartik Sharma (CSK) **Base price:** 30 lakh **Selling price** 14.20 crore	**Prashant Veer (CSK)** **Base price:** 30 lakh **Selling price** 14.20 crore	**Auqib Nabi (DC)** **Base price:** 30 lakh **Selling price** 8.40 crore
Mangesh Yadav (RCB) **Base price:** 30 lakh **Selling price** 5.20 crore	**Tejasvi Dahiya (KKR)** **Base price:** 30 lakh **Selling price** 3 crore	**Mukul Choudhary (LSG)** **Base price:** 30 lakh **Selling price** 2.60 crore
Akshat Raghuwanshi (LSG) **Base price:** 30 lakh **Selling price** 2.20 crore	**Salil Arora (SRH)** **Base price:** 30 lakh **Selling price** 1.50 crore	**Naman Tiwari (LSG)** **Base price:** 30 lakh **Selling price** 1 crore

Amol Karhadkar
ABU DHABI

A limited supply of proven, match-winning overseas options and the growing fearlessness of India's next generation combined to produce one of the standout narratives of the Indian Premier League auction on Tuesday: nine domestic uncapped players breaking into the crorepati club, with three more fetching bids in excess of ₹90 lakh.

While the scale of the spending may have surprised viewers and fans, it was far less unexpected inside the auction room.

True product of T20s

"I just wonder if we are now seeing the true product of T20 cricket coming to the fore," said Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming. "It certainly started last year, maybe even the year before. Earlier, my view was that experience would win. But now you're seeing fearless athletes who've grown up on T20 cricket and possess a skill set that is mouth-watering."

Fleming believed the defining trait of the new generation is the absence of fear. "They have no concern about the environment in which they need to express their skills. That's something we have to acknowledge – the T20 babies are coming through. Sometimes, experienced players can get caught trying to read the game too much.

"These young players only know one way, and that freedom has real appeal, especially as the game gets faster and faster. It's a natural by-product of T20 being around for a long time now."

CSK was at the forefront of this shift. A franchise once labelled 'Dad's Army' for its reliance on experience, CSK made a clear statement by investing ₹14.20 crore each in rookies Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma – two of the most expensive uncapped players in IPL history.

Delhi Capitals head coach Hemang Badani, whose franchise went all out to sign Jammu & Kashmir medium-pacer Auqib Nabi, echoed Fleming's views, stressing that the demand for domestic talent continues to rise.

"Only when someone has to bring it against you do they go that high," Badani said. "That tells you the kid has something in him – like a Prashant Veer or a Kartik Sharma. There's a reason franchises are willing to go to ₹12 or ₹14 crore. One player doesn't go that far on his own. It reflects a bigger picture – a lot of young boys are coming through."

The auction, in that sense, may have offered a glimpse into the future of the IPL.

The IPL-2026 dugouts

As the dust settled on the mini-auction, here are the new-look outfits:

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

RETAINED: Anshul Kamboj, Ayush Mhatre, Dewald Brevis, Gurjapneet Singh, Jamie Overton, Khaleel Ahmed, M.S. Dhoni, Mukesh Choudhary, Nathan Ellis, Noor Ahmad, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shivam Dube, Shreyas Gopal, Urvil Patel

■ **Traded in:** Sanju Samson

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Kartik Sharma, Prashant Veer, Rahul Chahar, Matt Henry, Akeal Hosein, Matthew Short, Zak Foulkes, Sarfaraz Khan, Aman Khan

DELHI CAPITALS

RETAINED: Abishek Porel, Ajay Mandal, Ashutosh Sharma, Axar Patel, Dushmantha Chameera, Karun Nair, K.L. Rahul, Kuldeep Yadav, Madhav Tiwari, Mitchell Starc, Mukesh Kumar, Sameer Rizvi, T. Natarajan, Tripurana Vijay, Tristan Stubbs, Vipraj Nigam

■ **Traded in:** Nitish Rana

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Auqib Nabi, Pathum Nissanka, Kyle Jamieson, Lungi Ngidi, Ben Duckett, David Miller, Prithvi Shaw, Sahil Parakh

GUJARAT TITANS

RETAINED: Anuj Rawat, Arshad Khan, B. Sai Sudharsan, Glenn Phillips, Gurnoor Singh, Ishant Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Jos Buttler, Kagiso Rabada, Kumar Kushagra, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Nishant Sindhu, Prasidh Krishna, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan, R. Sai Kishore, Shahrukh Khan, Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Jason Holder, Tom Banton, Ashok Sharma, Luke Wood, Prithvi Raj Yarra

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

RETAINED: Ajinkya Rahane, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Anukul Roy, Harshit Rana, Manish Pandey, Ramandeep Singh, Rinku Singh, Rovman Powell, Sunil Narine, Umran Malik, Vaibhav Arora, Varun Chakaravarthy

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Cameron Green, Matheesha Pathirana, Mustafizur Rahman, Tejasvi Dahiya, Rachin Ravindra, Finn Allen, Tim Seifert, Akash Deep, Rahul Tripathi, Daksh Kamra, Sarthak Ranjan, Prashant Solanki, Kartik Tyagi

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

RETAINED: Abdul Samad, Aiden Markram, Akash Singh, Arshin Kulkarni, Avesh Khan, Ayush Badoni, Digvesh Rathi, Himmat Singh, M. Siddharth, Matthew Breetzke, Mayank Yadav, Mitchell Marsh, Mohsin Khan, Nicholas Pooran, Prince Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Shahbaz Ahamad

■ **Traded in:** Arjun Tendulkar, Mohammed Shami

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Josh Inglis, Mukul Choudhary, Akshat Raghuwanshi, Anrich Nortje, Wanindu Hasaranga, Naman Tiwari

MUMBAI INDIANS

RETAINED: Allah Ghazanfar, Ashwani Kumar, Corbin Bosch, Deepak Chahar, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Mitchell Santner, Naman Dhir, Raghu Sharma, Raj Bawa, Robin Minz, Rohit Sharma, Ryan Rickelton, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Trent Boult, Will Jacks

■ **Traded in:** Mayank Markande, Shardul Thakur, Sherfane Rutherford

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Quinton de Kock, Mayank Rawat, Atharva Ankolekar, Mohammad Izhar, Danish Malewar

PUNJAB KINGS

RETAINED: Arshdeep Singh, Azmatullah Omarzai, Harnoor Pannu, Harpreet Brar, Lockie Ferguson, Marco Jansen, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Owen, Musheer Khan, Nehal Wadhera, Prabhsimran Singh, Priyansh Arya, Pyala Avinash, Shashank Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Suryansh Shedge, Vishnu Vinod, V. Vyshak, Xavier Bartlett, Yash Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Ben Dwarshuis, Cooper Connolly, Vishal Nishad, Pravin Dubey

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

RETAINED: Dhruv Jurel, Jofra Archer, Kwena Maphaka, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Nandre Burger, Riyan Parag, Sandeep Sharma, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Tushar Deshpande, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Yudhvir Singh

■ **Traded in:** Donovan Ferreira, Ravindra Jadeja, Sam Curran

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Ravi Bishnoi, Adam Milne, Ravi Singh, Sushant Mishra, Kuldeep Sen, Brijesh Sharma, Aman Rao Perala, Vignesh Puthur, Yash Raj Punja

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU

RETAINED: Abhinandan Singh, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Devdutt Padikkal, Jacob Bethell, Jitesh Sharma, Josh Hazlewood, Krunal Pandya, Nuwan Thushara, Phil Salt, Rajat Patidar, Rasikh Salam, Romario Shepherd, Suyash Sharma, Swapnil Singh, Tim David, Virat Kohli, Yash Dayal

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Venkatesh Iyer, Mangesh Yadav, Jacob Duffy, Jordan Cox, Kanishk Chouhan, Vihaan Malhotra, Vicky Ostwal, Satvik Deswal

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

RETAINED: Abhishek Sharma, Aniket Verma, Brydon Carse, Eshan Malinga, Harsh Dubey, Harshal Patel, Heinrich Klaasen, Ishan Kishan, Jaydev Unadkat, Kamindu Mendis, Nitish Kumar, Pat Cummins, R. Smaran, Travis Head, Zeeshan Ansari

TUESDAY'S PICKS: Liam Livingstone, Jack Edwards, Salil Arora, Shivam Mavi, Krains Fuletra, Praful Hinge, Amit Kumar, Onkar Tarmale, Sakib Hussain, Shivang Kumar

Can the Proteas push the series into a decider?

The Men in Blue, leading 2-1, will be looking to seal their eighth consecutive T20I series victory; Bumrah likely to play; Ekana's two-paced pitch will be a litmus test for South Africa's middle-order

SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
LUCKNOW

Balancing act: Captain Suryakumar will also have to get his batting form sorted. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

It is that time of the year when cricketers across the world are glued to the screens, waiting with bated breath to know whether they have hit the jackpot.

Amid all the attention on the IPL mini-auction in Abu Dhabi, there are far more pressing matters at hand for India and South Africa.

The Men in Blue, leading 2-1, will look to seal their eighth consecutive T20I series victory when they take on the Proteas in the fourth T20I at the Ekana Stadium here on Wednesday.

Suryakumar Yadav's men bounced back strongly in the previous outing in Dharamshala with a comprehensive seven-wicket win to edge ahead in the five-match contest.

At the same time, the first three matches have shown that one can't read too much into the form guide in the fickle world of T20 cricket, where one fine spell of bowling or a cameo batting effort can flip the outcome quickly.

India and South Africa alternated between posting competitive totals and defending them easily in Cuttack and New Chandigarh.

For the hosts, there were quite a few positives to take home from the Dharamshala victory. The bowlers, who were sent on a leather hunt in the second encounter, found their bearings, especially Arshdeep Singh, to restrict the visitors to a paltry total.

> I really think it's just about trying to be as consistent as you can, but also understanding it might not be your night
> – NORTJE

Harshit Rana, who replaced Jasprit Bumrah, hit the ground running, giving early breakthroughs while Varun Chakaravarthy continued to bamboozle batters. Bumrah, who missed the previous game due to personal reasons, is likely to be available for this game. Shivam Dube's tight spell would have warmed the hearts of the management. If the all-rounder can chip in a few overs consistently, it will give the squad more depth and flexibility ahead of the T20 World Cup.

But concern persists over Suryakumar and Shubman Gill's meagre returns. The skipper hasn't scored a half-century in his last 21 visits to the crease, while that number is 18 for Gill.

The vice-captain, who made a comeback into the T20 set-up ahead of the Asia Cup, needs to strike form sooner rather than later, with Sanju Samson waiting in the wings.

The Kerala wicketkeeper-batter, who had three centuries as an opener last year, was shunted down the order to accommodate Gill and has been forced onto the sidelines despite reasonable performances in the middle-order as well.

Meanwhile, Aiden Markram's men also have quite a few headaches to solve with their batting unit. In both defeats, the team lost half its line-up with the score reading 50 and 44.

If not for Markram's fighting half-century in Dharamshala, South Africa might have been bundled out for less than 100 for the second time in the series.

Considering the pitch here at the Ekana Stadium could be two-paced, the South African middle-order needs to find a way to tackle the Indian spinners if it hopes to push the series into a decider.

The teams (from): India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Shahbaz Ahmed, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Varun Chakaravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana and Washington Sundar.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (Capt.), Ottneil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Quinton de Kock (wk), Donovan Ferreira (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, George Linde, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje and Tristan Stubbs.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

Dube. R.V. MOORTHY

Dube credits think tank for improved bowling show

S. Dipak Ragav
LUCKNOW

Shivam Dube has become a regular starter in India's T20 set-up mainly for his batting prowess. But the 32-year-old is now slowly growing in confidence with his bowling and is ready to shoulder the challenge of being a genuine all-rounder.

In the last year, Dube has increased his bowling load. He returned figures of one for 21 in three overs in the previous game in Dharamshala.

"I have worked a lot in the off-season on my fitness. And when I am with the Indian team, I have many conversations with (bowling coach) Morne (Morkel). It helps me a lot," said Dube about his bowling on the eve of the fourth T20I against South Africa.

"As soon as (head coach) Gautam (Gambhir) and (skipper) Surya (Suryakumar Yadav) supported me and told me that I could do it, I put myself in that situation. I realised that I can bowl in challenging situations as well," he said.

Dube also backed Suryakumar to come good soon. "He's the kind of player who can win you five out of five matches on his own. Yes, he is short of runs, but his form will return at the right time. He is a fighter".

At what cost? Private investment on high-profile visits by stars like Messi and not on player-development initiatives is coming at a disconcerting time. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Messi to Medvedev: India courts stars, but forgets the systems

GENERAL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

The Indian men's National football team is ranked an abysmal 142. In tennis, there is no Indian in the singles top-250, men or women.

India is light years away from qualifying for even an expanded, 48-team FIFA World Cup. Indian singles players have won a grand total of two matches at Majors in the last decade.

Yet, even as two truly global sports are bed-ridden in the country, India is courting international stars.

Argentine legend Lionel Messi just completed a four-city tour, and from Wednesday, a battery of renowned tennis players, led by former World No. 1 and 2021 US Open champion Daniil Medvedev, will descend in Bengaluru to play the World Tennis League (WTL) exhibition.

"It's a waste of time bringing stars like Messi for such events," Pradhyum Reddy, who has donned the roles of a coach, technical director and CEO at multiple clubs, told *The Hindu*.

"Bring them for a game, like the last time Messi was here and Argentina played Venezuela [2011].

"This trip was an absolute waste of money, and if they have that kind of money, it can be better spent. That people are willing to pay huge sums to get a glimpse [of Messi] from a distance is a sad state of our affairs," he added.

Such private investment being directed towards star visits and exhibitions and not player-development initiatives comes at a disconcerting time.

Top flight football, the Indian Super League (ISL), is in limbo, and the All India Tennis Association (AITA), late last year, closed down the National Tennis Centre in New Delhi.

"You have sponsors because a big name like Mahesh [Bhupathi] is heading it [WTL]," said Zeeshan Ali, former India Davis Cup coach.

"The AITA, for whatever reason, is not able to attract sponsors. The onus then falls on the big names, and there is no reason why they cannot get together and start a grassroots-level programme."

Glitzy, star-driven tournaments like WTL aren't new to India. The International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) – also founded by Bhupathi – ran from 2014 to 2016. The Vijay Amritraj-led Champions Tennis League was held in 2014 and 2015. But there is no tangible proof that either helped the sport. "In cricket, IPL viewers are consistently watching the best in the world and it does have a knock-on effect, but how much of an impact can a one-off tennis match have on a kid?" wondered Pradhyum. "And seeing Messi just walking around the stadium can hardly inspire anyone to play."

Play a role

Zeeshan believes that stars do have a role but player development should march in step. "When [Roger] Federer came to India [2014 IPTL], and when [Rafael] Nadal did for Davis Cup [2016], there was a queue for tickets. So big players do generate interest.

"But given where Indian tennis is, money can be spent better. Every good junior shouldn't be taking a scholarship to a college in the United States. If there is a path that parents see within India, the tennis scene will change."

Aishwary wins 3P gold with world record

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI/BHOPAL

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar delivered a landmark performance at the 68th Shooting Nationals on Tuesday, firing a world record 470.5 to clinch gold in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final.

Other important results: 50m 3P: Men: Team: 1. Railways 1764-90x, 2. Navy 1760-99x, 3. Army Marksmanship Unit 1756-93x. **Team:** 1. Rajasthan 1748-77x, 2. Maharashtra 1738-72x, 3. Haryana 1738-47x. **Skeet: Men: Team:** 1. Punjab 358, 2. Madhya Pradesh 342, 3. Army Marksmanship Unit 340. **Team:** 1. Punjab 346, 2. Army Marksmanship Unit 330, 3. MP 330.

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, खण्ड-जयपुर प्रथम

क्रमांक :- राजकाज क्रमांक 19387766 दिनांक :- 15/12/2025

बिड आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 06/2025-26

राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड के खण्ड कार्यालय जयपुर प्रथम, टर्मिनल मार्केट जयपुर एवं खण्ड–दौसा के अन्तर्गत नवीन/मरम्मत कार्यो हेतु ऑन–लाईन बिड ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट (www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) के माध्यम से उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत बिडर्स से आमंत्रित की जाती है। बिड से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण बोर्ड की वेबसाईट www.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in/rsamb एवं www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। जिनका UBN No.AGM2526WSOB00991, AGM2526WSOB00993, AGM2526WSOB00995, AGM2526WSOB00997 to AGM2526WSOB01004 है।

राज.संवाद/सी/25/15892 अधिशाषी अभियंता, खण्ड-जयपुर प्रथम

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, India
CIN:U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD - SECURITY, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of: Services for Hiring of Security and Fire Manpower.

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 096/GATP/SECURITY/50007498 dated** 16/12/2025 **"Services Required for Hiring of Security and Fire Manpower** at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.'

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 16/12/2025 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

1079/12/2025-26/5957 GATP-80/25

आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय

AVANI
सर्वा: प्रदिशो जयेम

ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CIN-U35990TN2021GOI14550

ADVT. NO. AVNLCO/HR/2025/10
ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONALS ON BOTH EXPERTS/CONSULTANTS/ADVISORS POLICY AND FIXED TERM CONTRACT POLICY

Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI) (AVNL) is a new Defence PSU with its headquarters at Avadi (Chennai). AVNL is engaged in the manufacturing of battle tanks (T-72, T-90, MBT Arjun), Infantry Combat Vehicles, Support vehicles (MPV, AERV etc.) and Defence mobility solutions (Stallion, LPTA etc.) for the armed forces and homeland security agencies. It is the current market leader in this segment. It is a new Government Company with Great Future. It offers great work environment and challenging opportunities for the professionals to prove their mettle.

Offline applications are invited from eligible candidates for contractual engagement for the following post:

S. No	NAME OF THE POST	NO OF VACANCY	TOTAL CONSOLIDATED REMUNERATION (PER MONTH) ALL INCLUSIVE	NATURE OF APPOINTMENT
1.	Senior Consultant D2IC (TADAK)	01 [01-UR]	Rs. 1,20,000/- + IDA	Engagement of Experts/Advisors/ Consultants
2.	Consultant (GCS)	01 [01-UR]	Rs. 1,20,000/- + IDA	
3.	Consultant (Vectronics)	01 [01-UR]	Rs. 1,20,000/- + IDA	
4.	Senior Manager (TWS)	01 [01-UR]	Rs. 70,000/- + IDA	Engagement on Fixed Term Contract Basis
5.	Senior Manager (Engine)	01 [01-UR]	Rs. 70,000/- + IDA	
6.	Junior Manager (Training & Development)	01 [01-UR]	Rs. 30,000/- + IDA	

The last date of receipt of application will be 21 Days from the date of publication of this advertisement. For further information please visit our AVNL website www.avnl.co.in or DDP website ddpdoo.gov.in for detailed job specification, qualification, experience, skills, remuneration, procedure, application format, terms and conditions for applying for the said posts.

Note:
Any corrigendum / amendment in this advertisement will be published / uploaded on **AVNL or DDP website ONLY**. Candidates are requested to visit the website regularly for latest updates / Corrigendum.

Chennai
Dated: 17-12-2025

HR Division, AVNL CO
Email: hr@avnl.co.in
Tele: :044 – 26844808/26844810

THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU
REWIND 2025
TRIVIA QUIZ

DAY 12

1. From December 10, 2025, which country became the first to ban social media for children under 16, blocking platforms like TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook?
2. In June 2025, Tamil Nadu notified India's newest Greater Flamingo Sanctuary at which coastal location known for its unique landscapes and proximity to the Palk Strait?
3. Jamaica recently declared an outbreak of which bacterial disease following the severe flooding caused by Hurricane Melissa in late October 2025?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz** take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Transition to electronic line-calling from human line judges
2. Banu Mushtaq
3. Piprahwa gems

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Tony Singh, Ludhiana | 2. Vineetha Yadav, Tirupati | 3. Pavithra.P, Chennai

Now reading:
Journalists who sleep with a clear conscience.

INBRIEF

World Tennis League Exhibition from today

The fourth season of the World Tennis League exhibition tournament will be held at the S.M. Krishna Stadium in Bengaluru from Wednesday. The four-day League, which was held in Dubai for three years, will make its India debut and is set to feature stars such as Daniil Medvedev, Nick Kyrgios, Paula Badosa, Gael Monfils, Elina Svitolina and Rohan Bopanna, among others. The 16 players will be split into four four-member teams, and the competition will be played in the round-robin format, with the top-two teams progressing to the final. Each tie consists of four sets and teams will get one point for each game they win in a tie.

On Wednesday (3 p.m. onwards): VB Realty Hawks (Denis Shapovalov, Yuki Bhambri, Elina Svitolina & Maaya Rajeshwaran) vs. Aussie Mavericks Kites (Nick Kyrgios, Dhakshineshwar Suresh, Marta Kostyuk & Ankita Raina) followed by AOS Eagles (Gael Monfils, Sumit Nagal, Paula Badosa & Shrivalli Bhamidipaty) vs. Game Changers Falcons (Daniil Medvedev, Rohan Bopanna, Magda Linette & Sahaja Yamalapalli).

Cooch Behar Trophy: Maharashtra 258 for eight

Arqam Syed (68, 12x4) and Aneesh Joshi's (41 batting, 5x4) 93-run eighth-wicket partnership helped Maharashtra post 258 for eight in 85 overs in the first innings against Karnataka on the first day of the under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy Elite match at the S.D.N.R.W. grounds in Mysuru on Tuesday.

The scores: Maharashtra 258/8 in 85 overs (Sahil Parakh 30, Samit Surana 31, Sai Paradeshi 48, Arqam Syed 68, Aneesh Joshi 41 batting, Vaibhav Sharma 5/64) vs Karnataka.

Nagal to lead Indian charge at Bengaluru Open

Sumit Nagal is set to lead the Indian challenge at the Bengaluru Open, an ATP Challenger 125 event at the S.M. Krishna Stadium from January 5, 2026. Nagal, ranked 273, is the 10th best in the field. The leading man Spaniard Pedro Martinez, who was ranked as high as 36 in February this year but is now down to 93. The other notable names are Great Britain's Dan Evans (former top-25 player), South Africa's Lloyd Harris (once No. 31 and a US Open quarterfinalist in 2021), Croatia's Borna Gojo (Davis Cup winner in 2021) and India's Aryan Shah, who has got in with a ranking of 399. Interestingly, for a Challenger 125, Bengaluru Open has a surprisingly low cut-off for main draw entry, with the last man being Austria's Neil Oberleitner at World No. 442.

Income Tax FC edges Real Chikkamagaluru

Income Tax FC edged out Real Chikkamagaluru FC 2-1 in the BDFA 'A' division football league in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The results: Income Tax FC bt Real Chikkamagaluru FC 2-1; BTM FC bt Jawahar Union FC 3-1.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 10.30 a.m.
India vs South Africa: 4th T20I, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.
New Zealand vs West Indies: 3rd Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Thursday)
The Ashes: 3rd Test, day 2, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 5 a.m. (Thursday)

Making history: Kundu became the first-ever double centurion for India in Youth ODIs. FILE PHOTO

Kundu's double ton flattens Malaysia

The wicketeeeper-batter's unbeaten 125-ball 209 takes the Indian colts to a mammoth 408; Deepesh claims five to bundle out the opponent for 93

UNDER-19 ASIA CUP

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Abhigyan Kundu's record 209 not out and a five-wicket haul from Deepesh Devendran set up a massive 315-run victory for India against Malaysia in their Under-19 Asia Cup match here on Tuesday.

India's margin of win is its second biggest in terms of runs in Youth ODIs, after a 326-run thrashing of Uganda in 2022.

Kundu etched his name in record books with a first-ever double century India in Youth ODIs, scoring his runs off 125 balls with 17 fours and nine sixes to fire the side to a mammoth 408 for seven. In reply, right-arm medium pacer Deepesh ran through the Malaysian middle-order. Despite a late resistance from Hamzah Panggi (35), Malaysia was bowled out for 93 in 32.1 overs.

It was a perfect outing for the Indian colts who put together a robust batting show in which the tone was set by Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who notched up a quick-fire 50 off 26 balls (5x4, 3x6).

Suryavanshi could not convert his start into another big score, having scored 171 a few days ago against the UAE.

India was unperturbed even as it lost skipper Ayush Mhatre (14) and Vihaan Malhotra (seven) and cheaply.

Vedant Trivedi teamed up with Kundu as the two added 209 runs for the fourth wicket to consolidate. The latter was the dominant of the two with his aggressive strokeplay, particularly on the leg side.

The 17-year-old Kundu's rotation of the strike was top notch as he collected 55 singles during his innings while hitting 17 fours and nine sixes.

Kundu's double ton is also only the second instance of a batter at U-19 level crossing the 200-run mark, with South Africa's Jorich Van Schalkwyk's 215 against Zimbabwe earlier this year being the first.

The scores: India 408/7 in 50 overs (Suryavanshi 50, Vedant 90, Kundu 209 n.o., Muhammad Akram 5/89) bt Malaysia 93 in 32.1 overs (Deepesh 5/22).

Haryana stuns Hyderabad, takes on Jharkhand in final

Swashbucklers: Skipper Ankit smashed a 27-ball-57 to power Haryana to a huge total while Sarfaraz continued his fine run for Mumbai. FILE PHOTOS: K.V.S. GIRI & SANDEEP SAXENA

SMAT

Shayan Acharya
PUNE

Jharkhand's winning streak was halted on Tuesday as it lost to Andhra by nine runs in the last match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Super League stage. But that did not stop Ishan Kishan's men from reaching their maiden final in the T20 tournament.

Enjoying a superior net run rate (NRR) of + 0.221, Jharkhand finished atop Group-B to set up a summit clash with Haryana, who stunned Hyderabad with a 124-run win at the MCA Stadium.

Coming on the back of two successive wins, Hyderabad would have fancied its chances. But as the frontline bowlers faltered on a flat deck, Haryana made optimum use of it.

Riding on captain Ankit Kumar's 27-ball-57 and Samant Jakhar's 22-ball-60, Haryana put up 246 for seven, before off-spinner Amit Rana (3 for 14) and seamer Ishant Bhardwaj, who claimed a couple of wickets, helped it bundle out Hyderabad for 122.

After conceding a massive total, Hyderabad had to score at least 195 runs to make the summit clash, but only Buddhi Rahul (37) fought it out as Haryana came from behind to earn a ticket to the final.

In a Group-B fixture, Nitish Kumar's 22-ball-45 and two for 32 was not enough to take Andhra to the final as Jharkhand stayed ahead on NRR.

Chasing a target of 204, Virat Singh (77, 40b, 4x4, 7x6) and Ishan Kishan (35, 18b, 5x4, 2x6) added 88 runs for the opening partnership. However, things went downhill thereafter as none of the middle-order batters could deliver.

Defending champion Mumbai crashed out despite defeating Rajasthan by three wickets. Sarfaraz Khan brought up his second consecutive fifty, off just 15 balls, with four national selectors in attendance.

To better its NRR, Mumbai had to chase down Rajasthan's total in 10.2 overs, but it could reach home with only 11 balls to spare.

Madhya Pradesh was knocked out by Punjab despite Venkatesh Iyer's 43-ball-70.

The scores: Madhya Pradesh 225/8 in 20 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 70, Aniket Verma 31, Gurnoor Brar 3/45) lost to Punjab 226/8 in 19.1 overs (Harnoor Singh 64, Anmolpreet Singh 38, Salil Arora 50, Ramandeep Singh 35 n.o., Shivam Shukla 3/39).
Rajasthan 216/4 in 20 overs (Ramnivas Golada 48, Deepak Hooda 51, Mahipal Lomror 39, Mukul Choudhary 54 n.o.) lost to Mumbai 217/7 in 18.1 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 72 n.o., Sarfaraz Khan 73).
Andhra 203/7 in 20 overs (K.S. Bharat 35, Ashwin Hebbar 30, Nitish Kumar 45) bt Jharkhand 194/8 in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 35, Virat Singh 77).
Haryana 246/7 in 20 overs (Ankit Kumar 57, Samant Jakhar 60, Parth Vats 45) bt Hyderabad 122 in 16.1 overs (Buddhi Rahul 37, Amit Rana 3/14).

Kumble, Srinath in KSCA's CAC

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Former India cricketers Anil Kumble and Javagal Srinath are among the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) constituted by the newly elected managing committee of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

Kumble and Srinath had backed KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad and his team during the election campaign.

Two more ex-India cricketers – Sunil Joshi and Vijay Bharadwaj – and Jayshree Doraiswamy are part of the CAC.

In its first meeting, the CAC made recommendations for the men's selection panels for the ongoing season, which was approved by the managing committee. The women's selection committee is under review.

Former KSCA treasurer Vinay Mruthyunjaya has been nominated as the KSCA official spokesperson and chairman - public & member relations.

Mruthyunjaya said that the CAC was formed as per KSCA's bylaws, and that Kumble, Srinath and others were happy to come on board.

Based on the CAC recommendation, former Karnataka cricketer Amit Verma has been appointed as the men's senior and men's under-23 selection committee chairman. Amit, who has played 85 First Class fixtures, replaces Anand Katti in the post. Katti's term came to an end after only a few months in charge.

Selection panels: Men: Senior and Under-23: Amit Verma, S. Prakash, Tejpal Kothari, Sunil Raju. **Junior (Under-19 / U-16 / U-14):** G.K. Anil Kumar, C. Raghavendra, G.N. Umesh, D.S. Ananth. **Coaches: Under-23:** Ganesh Satish, Deepak Chougule.

American Gambits narrowly beat Continental Kings

GCL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

For a brief second, Vidit Gujrathi had two queens on the board. But neither could save their king. That also meant Triveni Continental Kings, the champion of the first two editions of the Global Chess League, would suffer its first defeat in the third.

Richard Rapport's win against Gujrathi helped Fyers American Gambits score a 10-8 victory against Continental Kings.

Rapport finished the game with flourish, leading Vidit into a mating net, after giving up his rook and allowing white that second queen. The Indian resigned after 28 moves with checkmate just three moves away.

The day also saw Ganges Grandmasters beat PBG Alaskan Knights rather convincingly, 12-3, with Viswanathan Anand turning the clock back in style to beat D. Gukesh.

Turning the clock back: Anand got the better of Gukesh to put his team on the road to victory. GCL

The results (third round): Ganges Grandmasters bt PBG Alaskan Knights 12-3 (Viswanathan Anand bt D. Gukesh; Vincent Keymer drew with Arjun Erigaisi; Jovakhir Sindarov bt Leinier Dominguez; Polina Shuvalova bt Kateryna Lagno; Stavroula Tsolakidou drew with Sarasadat Khademalsharieh; Raunak Sadhwani drew with Daniel Dardha).

Fyers American Gambits bt Triveni Continental Kings 10-8 (Hikaru Nakamura lost to Alireza Firouzja, Vladislav Artemiev drew with Wei Yi; Richard Rapport bt Vidit Gujrathi; Bibisara Assaubayeva drew with Zhu Jiner; Teodora Injac lost to Alexandra Kosteniuk; Volodar Murzin bt MarcAndria Maurizzi).

upGrad Mumba Masters lost to Alpine SG Pipers 7-9 (Maxime Vachier-Lagrave bt Fabiano Caruana; Wesley So drew with Anish Giri; Shakhriyar Mamedyarov drew with R. Praggnanandhaa; Koneru Humpy lost to Hou Yifan; D. Harika drew with Nino Batsiashvilli; Daneshvar Barditya lost to Leon Mendonca).

(The writer is in Mumbai at the invitation of Tech Mahindra).

Khawaja out, skipper Cummins and Lyon return

Agence France-Presse
ADELAIDE

Fit-again opener Usman Khawaja was left out of the third Ashes Test in Adelaide starting on Wednesday as skipper Pat Cummins and veteran Nathan Lyon were named in an Australia side looking to seal the series.

Khawaja, who turns 39 this month, had back spasms and failed to open in the first Test victory against England in Perth then was ruled out injured for the second in Brisbane.

He has since recovered but selectors opted to stick with Travis Head and Jake Weatherald at the top of the order, leaving the 85-Test veteran's international future in grave doubt.

Australia XI: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Jake Weatherald, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Cameron Green, Josh Inglis, Alex Carey, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Scott Boland.

The time has come to split the coaching job in Indian cricket

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

In sport, coaches usually adapt a system to the strengths of the players available rather than the other way around. Players come with different skill sets: the left-arm spinner who is also a terrific fielder, the frontline batter who can bowl a few holding overs and maybe even pick up a wicket or two and so on. It is the coach's job to understand his players well and use them where they are most likely to mesh their skills to win matches.

All that might seem obvious. But some coaches like to disrupt the pattern. Greg Chappell was fond of moving players around in white ball cricket changing the batting order, for instance, so everybody is prepared for any match situation. India's current coach Gautam Gambhir does that sometimes too.

Experimentation

Yet, at the end of the year, India, who lost more Tests than they won are yet to find a settled No. 3 in any format. The suspicion remains that Gambhir is trying to squeeze his players into a pre-determined system and not finding one that suits his players. Experimentation – a word being constantly thrown at Gambhir's face in criticism – isn't such a bad thing. With the World T20 just a few weeks and a few matches away, it is inevitable. But a coach needs to keep an open mind and ensure he has enough data for selectors to choose the right combination.

Sanju Samson, the smoothest (for want of a better term) batter in the national team since Rohit Sharma finds himself in the wilderness now. Has the coach got enough data to either drop him from the squad or use him as batter or wicketkeeper? There is very little you can learn of a player's form when he spends all his time in the dugout. He deserves to be told if he has a future; so does Indian cricket.

White ball cricket, especially T20, is a natural platform for experimentation given that Test players need more time to mature. Here you can hit the right note early through a combination of luck and skill.

Currently there are two kinds of T20 players. The first began as First Class cricketers and then adapted to the demands of T20. Most bowlers in the Indian team belong to this category. An interesting case is that of Varun Chakaravarthy who is 34 and came through the TNPL and IPL having lost some years to academics. He is now the No. 1 T20 bowler in the world.

The most successful batter of this group is skipper Suryakumar Yadav who invented shots, played them with confidence and was for long the No. 1 batter in the format.

Attacking game

The second group is the T20 generation. Abhishek Sharma, who began his IPL career as a 17-year-old, and has a strike rate of nearly 190 in T20 Internationals is the natural here. This is the generation of varying ages but identical attitudes to playing attacking cricket, unafraid to go for their shots from the first delivery and most comfortable in the shortest format. Failure is not a stumbling block. Tilak Verma, Rinku Singh, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Ayush Mhatre all profess a philosophy distinctly different from the previous generation. They may or may not save a Test match, but they will strike their way to many T20 victories.

In cricket, there is a mythical delivery called the 'unplayable' ball. Those named above are batters capable of the unplayable shot, one that didn't seem possible till they played it. Suryavanshi is not yet 15 and is currently setting the world alight at the Under-19 Asia Cup (50 overs). This is an excellent supply line to the senior team. At least a couple of players from this squad, all born in this century, deserve to be promoted to the senior team, and promoted early.

Now that players have become more specialised, with few overlaps between the Test team and T20, it may also be time to split the coaching. Thus, Gambhir for white ball matches, and someone like V.V.S. Laxman for Test cricket.

India do not play a Test till August next year. For a while the conversation will be about T20, with the World Cup in February next.

Man United blows lead thrice

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Manchester United blew the lead thrice to miss out on moving up to fifth in the Premier League as Bournemouth would not be beaten in a thrilling 4-4 draw.

The results: Premier League: Manchester United 4 (Diallo 13, Casemiro 45+4, Fernandes 77, Cunha 79) drew with Bournemouth 4 (Semenyo 40, Evanilson 46, Tavernier 52, Kroupi 84).

Serie A: Roma 1 (Wesley Franca 61) bt Como 0.